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THE HINDU

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022

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NEARBY

Over 1,500 vehicles with fake number plates

BENGALURU

The Traffic Management Centre has flagged over 1,500 vehicles with fake number plates so far on city roads. The traffic police on the ground have now been given a new set of SOP to verify and cross-check vehicle documents and the number plates thoroughly.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Footpaths: Deadline to clear construction debris

BENGALURU

Following complaints by pedestrians, Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath on Thursday ordered civic officials to clear all construction material, pipes, and other debris that have been lying on footpaths for a long time by Sunday 4 p.m.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

METROPLUS ▸ PAGE 7

SC orders status quo on move to put panel in charge of IOA

Appointment of committee may result in a sporting ban on India globally: Centre

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered status quo on the implementation of a Delhi High Court order to hand over the affairs of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to a Committee of Administrators (CoA).

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana passed the order to maintain status quo after the Centre and the IOA informed the top court that the charge had not yet been transferred to the three-member CoA.

The top court said the case would be posted for hearing before an appropriate Bench on Monday. The court order on Thursday came on an urgent mentioning made by the Centre and the IOA that the Delhi High Court's decision to appoint a CoA ran the risk of India being banned from participating in international events, including the Olympics.

"According to the rules of the International Olympic Committee, representation of a national level body like the IOA by a non-elected body would be treated as a third party interference. The IOA is bound by these rules. Every country in the world is bound by it," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, submitted.

Mr. Mehta said the issue essentially affected "national prestige in the global field".

He said the High Court's decision to appoint a CoA may or may not be for valid reasons. The top court could separately look into the merits. "But the moment they [the CoA] take over, India stands a 99% chance of being suspended from participating in any Olympic event," Mr. Mehta said.

FIFA ban

This turn of events in the athletic arena comes even as India is grappling with the reality of the FIFA ban of the All India Football Federation (AIFF). The governance of the AIFF had similarly been transferred to a CoA by the Supreme Court.

The FIFA had recently gone ahead and suspended the AIFF, citing "third party interference", leaving an air of uncertainty on the prospect of India hosting the Under-17 Women's World Cup in October.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

The case file

- **Nov. 30:** Lawyer Rahul Mehra files petition in the Delhi HC seeking a stay on the IOA elections pending amendment to its constitution in accordance with the National Sports Code 2011
- **Dec. 17:** Delhi HC orders moving AGM scheduled for December 19 from Guwahati to Delhi, stays elections; approves six-member ad-hoc committee
- **April 22:** Delhi HC stays Special General Body Meeting (GBM) called by Narinder Batra on April 25
- **August 17:** The Delhi HC orders forming a Committee of Administrators for IOA; directs holding elections within 16 weeks
- **August 18:** Supreme Court stays the Delhi HC order on forming CoA, maintains status quo

State of worry

No respite: An aerial view of the flood-affected areas in Odisha on Thursday. Over five lakh people in 12 districts have been hit by the deluge. The Met department has forecast more rain due to a low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Abandoned boat with weapons triggers scare

Terror angle not confirmed, says Maharashtra Deputy CM

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
MUMBAI

A high alert was sounded in Maharashtra after an abandoned boat containing three AK-series assault rifles and 10 boxes of live rounds was found along the Raigad coastline on Thursday. However, the State government said there was no confirmation of a terror angle.

Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis told the Assembly that the U.K.-registered yacht, which bore the sticker of 'Neptune Maritime Security' (a security firm providing armed services for shipping and oil firms), belonged to an Australian national whose husband is the captain of the vessel.

He said that as the engine of the boat, which was making its way from Muscat to Europe, had malfunctioned, its occupants had to be rescued. Owing to rough seas, the boat could not be towed and so it went adrift with the weapons. "The 16-metre boat was found near the waters off Harihareshwar [in Raigad's Shrivardhan taluk]. While there is no confirmation of any terror angle, we are not ruling out anything and are investigating all aspects," said Mr. Fadnavis.

The presence of the boat created panic as Mumbai had been targeted by Pakistan-based terrorists on November 26, 2008, who had entered the city by a similar sea route, off the Raigad coast.

The U.K.-registered yacht with three AK-47 rifles and bullets found off the Raigad coast in Maharashtra on Thursday. • PTI

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

A day after HC ruling, Palaniswami rejects Panneerselvam's plea for unity

Court likely to hear EPS appeal on August 22

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A day after the Madras High Court declared the July 11 general council meeting of the AIADMK as void, the party's joint coordinator (co-coordinator) Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Thursday dismissed the call for "unity" given by coordinator O. Panneerselvam.

Mr. Palaniswami also moved a Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justices M. Duraiswamy and Sunder Mohan seeking urgent hearing of his appeal against the order of the single judge nullifying the general council meeting. (At the meeting, Mr. Palaniswami was elected interim general secretary and Mr. Panneerselvam was expelled). The appeal is likely to come up for hearing on Monday.

When journalists sought his comment on Mr. Panneerselvam's appeal for the coming together of all those who were in the party, Mr. Palaniswami replied: "He keeps on making such a call. He has invited even those against whom he launched *dharmayudham* [a campaign run by Mr. Panneerselvam against the perceived domination of the family of former interim general secretary V.K. Sasikala in the affairs of the party]. For him, power matters. He does not want to put in work but wants to enjoy the position of power."

The joint coordinator said that it was Mr. Panneerselvam who "led" a mob which ransacked the headquarters of the party on the day of the general council meeting. Besides, he did not "want to declare him [Mr. Palaniswami]" initially the candidate for the post of Chief Minister during the run-up to the 2021 Assembly election and this was a reason for the party's "narrow defeat" to the DMK in the poll.

No change in stance: AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami at a press conference in Chennai on Thursday. • PTI

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Top court issues notice

The Supreme Court on Thursday issued notice on an appeal filed by former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam against a Madras High Court order which entitled AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami to take over possession of the party headquarters in Chennai.

Centre blocks eight YouTube news channels

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry has blocked seven Indian and one Pakistan-based YouTube news channels for allegedly spreading disinformation related to India's national security, foreign relations and public order.

The blocked channels had over 114 crore views and 85.73 lakh subscribers. "Fake anti-India content was being monetised by these channels on YouTube," said an official, adding that a Facebook account too had been blocked. "The purpose of the content published by some of these channels was to spread hatred among religious communities in India. False claims were made in various videos," said the Ministry in a statement.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

HC poser to govt. on solving CET ranking row

'Is it possible to tweak the eligibility criteria?'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday asked the State government whether it is possible to award ranks by considering the marks of II PUC-2021 and CET-2022 at 25:75 ratio for the students who have appeared as repeaters for the Common Entrance Test (CET)-2022.

Justice S.R. Krishna Kumar orally asked the government counsel to examine the possibility while hearing the petitions filed by petitions filed Eshwar R. and 53 other students, who have questioned non-consideration of marks awarded to them in the 2021 Pre-University Course while allotting ranks to them in CET-2022.

The petitioners were awarded ranks solely based on their CET-2022 marks.

The court adjourned further hearing till Monday to enable the government to inform the court whether such a solution can be worked out as a one-time measure to overcome the peculiar scenario faced during this year.

Meanwhile, the government in its written statement has opposed the plea of the petitioners to award them ranks in the CET-22 as was done in the case of students who have written II PU examination in 2022. The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) had considered the marks of II PUC-2022 and CET-2022 in 50:50 ratio as per the law for the students who had appeared for the 2022 II PU examination.

'Qualifying exam'

Both the government and the KEA have contended that ranks have to be determined based on the marks obtained in the "qualifying examinations", and "the examinations" means "written examinations", both in II PU course and the CET.

The government also said that written examination for the II PU course was not conducted in 2021 in view of COVID-19 pandemic but written examinations were held in August for CET-2021.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 5

BJP workers pelt eggs at Siddaramaiah's vehicle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

BJP youth workers waved black flags and threw eggs at the vehicle of Siddaramaiah, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, while he was travelling in Kodagu on Thursday. This was in protest against the former Chief Minister's remarks on Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar.

Mr. Siddaramaiah called this an act of cowardice and defended his statements on Savarkar. He said it was an attempt to divert attention from "the lack of governance and absence of government".

Many ruling party members also condemned the incident. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said any difference of opinion has to be made through strong arguments and urged that no one resort to physical acts, that too against the Leader of the Opposition. Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said the party would not tolerate such acts.

DETAILS ▸ PAGE 4

Now, row over advancing 'Sadbahavana Dina'

It used to be observed on Aug. 20

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

- The day coincides with former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary
- It is being observed since 1992 on the theme of national integration and communal harmony
- BJP is trying to erase the history of martyrs through the politics of revenge, says Siddaramaiah

After dropping Jawaharlal Nehru from the list of freedom fighters in the State's official media advertisement ahead of Independence Day, the Karnataka government has kicked up a new controversy by advancing the date of 'Sadbhavana Dina' to August 18, while it was earlier observed on August 20 to coincide with former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary.

Sadbhavana Dina has been observed since 1992 on the theme of national integration and communal harmony. On the day, students take oath to work for harmony in all universities, schools, and colleges.

Traditionally, a photo of Rajiv Gandhi is also kept before which they take the pledge.

However, this year, the government issued on order on August 16 advancing the date by two days. Interestingly, the order read, "Like every year this year too the government has decided to celebrate Sadbhavana Dina on August 18." It makes no mention of advancing of the date or reason to do so. As per the order, the day was observed in schools and colleges, but without any mention of the late Rajiv Gandhi.

'Erasing history'

The Congress has criticised this as yet another move by the BJP to "undermine the sacrifices of martyrs of the country".

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "They are trying to erase the history of martyrs through the politics of revenge. It is foolish to believe that Rajiv Gandhi's sacrifice can be erased by the government and the Education Minister with an order."

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Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Gujarat excess deaths

21,300 The number of excess deaths recorded across 90 municipalities in Gujarat between March 2020 to April 2021, by researchers from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, U.S. Official government data for this period reported only 10,098 deaths attributable to COVID-19 for the entirety of Gujarat. the researchers said. Excess mortality is defined as the increase in observed death counts compared to expected mortality. PTI

Fuel profit loss

18,480 In crore, the combined net loss posted by IOCL, BPCL and HPCL in the June quarter. This was due to the freeze in retail petrol and diesel rates for a record 137 days beginning November 4, 2021. The ₹10 a litre increase after the freeze, effected between March 22 to April 6, wasn't sufficient to cover the cost. However, international oil prices have hit a six-month low averaging $91.45 per barrel on Wednesday down from $102.97 in April. PTI

Solar surge

7.2 In gigawatts (GW), the amount of solar capacity installations added in the first half of 2022 by India, according to Mercom India Research. In January-June of 2021, the country had added 4.5 GW solar capacity, the research firm's 'Q2 2022 India Solar Market Update' released on Thursday said. India's cumulative installed solar capacity now stands at 57 GW. Cumulative large-scale solar PV installations in Rajasthan reached almost 13 GW as of June 2022, and the State accounted for almost 27% of the total installations in the country. PTI

Quit, apply, repeat

34 In percentage, the share of respondents in India who believe that they are extremely/very likely to switch to a new employer as compared to 19% globally.The figure is based on the findings of PwC's Global Workforce Hopes and Fears Survey 2022. The survey included 2,608 participants from India and 93% of them were full-time employees. 32% said that they plan to leave the workforce. Millennials are the most likely to seek new employment, with 37% indicating that they are likely to switch in the next 12 months. PTI

No to Russian gas

800 In million cubic metres (mcm), the amount of gas Polish gas company PGNiG has contracted for the new Baltic Pipe linking Poland and Norway for the fourth quarter. Long wary of Russian intentions, Poland started diversifying away from Russian gas years before Moscow's February invasion of Ukraine triggered a global energy crisis. Poland was cut off from Russian gas supplies in April for refusing to pay in roubles. The company said that it had seen a "radical shift" in its foreign gas supply sources. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The recent blocking of the VLC Media Player

What are the situations under which the government can mandate restrictions to online content? Are the current IT Rules satisfactory?

THE GIST

- The website of VideoLAN Client (VLC) has been banned in India. Civil society organisations have repeatedly filed RTI applications with the MeitY to know the reasons behind this ban. All of them have been met with similar responses stating that "no information is available" with the Ministry.
- Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, allows the government to direct an intermediary to "block for access by the public ..... any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource" if it is necessary to do so, in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India".
- A detailed procedure for blocking content is provided by the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009. Only the Central government can exercise this power of directing intermediaries to block online content, and not the State governments.

TRISHEE GOYAL

The story so far: The website of VideoLAN Client (VLC) has been banned in India. Although there is no official information on the ban, VLC states that according to its statistics, its website has been banned since February this year.

What is VideoLan?
VLC gained popularity in India in the late 90s when advancements in information technology led to the penetration of personal computers in Indian homes. It continues to be one of the most popular media players. Apart from being free and open source, VLC easily integrates with other platforms and streaming services and supports all file formats without requiring additional codecs.

Do we know why VLC was banned?
Given VLC's popularity, the ban on the VLC website caused quite a kerfuffle. Civil society organisations have repeatedly filed RTI applications with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). These applications have been met with similar responses stating that "no information is available" with the Ministry. This is despite the fact that when trying to access the website previously, the message "The website has been blocked as per order of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under IT Act, 2000", was displayed. Lack of authoritative information from the government has led to speculation that VLC was banned along with the 54 Chinese applications in February this year. Although VLC is not a Chinese app, reports from cybersecurity firms, such as Symantec, in April this year suggested that Cicada, a hacker group allegedly backed by China, has been using the VLC Media Player to deploy a malicious malware loader. It is being suggested that this was part of a longer cyberattack campaign that started in mid-2021 and was still active in February 2022. It pointed out that Cicada's targets were spread over a number of regions, including India. This is also being used to explain why the present ban is a soft ban rather than a hard ban. While the VLC website has been banned, the VLC app continues to be available for download on Google and Apple stores. This is probably because the app stores' servers where the mobile apps are hosted are considered safer than servers where the desktop versions are hosted.

In which situations can online content be blocked to the public?
There are two routes through which content can be blocked online – executive and judicial. First, given the reach of the internet and its potential to cause significant harm to online users, governments across the world reserve the power to monitor and issue directions for regulation of the online content being available in their jurisdictions. The Government of India gets this power from Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. Section 69A allows the government to direct an intermediary to "block for access by the public ..... any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource" if it is "necessary or expedient to do so, in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognisable offence". Section 69A draws its power from Article 19(2) of the Constitution which allows the government to place reasonable restrictions on the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression. Second, courts in India, also have the power to direct intermediaries to make content unavailable in India to provide effective remedy to the victim/plaintiff. For example, courts may order internet service providers to block websites which provide access to pirated content and violate the plaintiff's copyright.

What is the procedure for blocking access to content online?
A detailed procedure for blocking content is provided by the Information Technology Rules, 2009 (IT Rules, 2009) that have been formulated under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. An important point to note is that only the Central government can exercise this power of directing intermediaries to block access to online content directly, and not the State governments. The procedure typically provides that Central or State agencies will appoint a "nodal officer" who will forward the blocking order to the "designated officer" of the Central government. The designated officer, as part of a committee, examines the request of the nodal officer. The committee comprises representatives from the Ministries of Law and Justice, Information and Broadcasting, Home Affairs, and the Cert-In. The creator/host of the content in question is given a notice to submit clarifications and replies. The committee then makes a recommendation on whether the request of the nodal officer should be accepted or not. If this recommendation is approved by the MeitY, the designated officer can direct the intermediary to remove content.

How can this process be improved?
Civil society organisations have been advocating for certain reforms to the IT Rules, 2009 for some time now. The first is on the aspect of transparency. As witnessed in the case of VideoLan's website blocking, there is no clarity on why its website has been blocked. Reasons for the same continue to be articulated on conjecture. Rule 16 of the IT Rules, 2009 provides that strict confidentiality is to be maintained with respect to any requests or actions under the IT Rules, 2009. This should be revisited and an element of transparency should be introduced whereby VideoLAN is given a reason for why such an order was made, something that has been done in the recent order in the *Tanul Thakur* case. Second, even though the IT Rules provide for an opportunity of hearing to the creator/host of content, given VideoLAN's cluelessness it seems that this opportunity may not be afforded to affected parties in all cases. The lack of an opportunity to submit

clarifications/replies by the creator/host violates the principles of natural justice. It can also lead to erroneous decision making by the committee, which may not be in possession of the full facts, that can have significant financial consequences for the blocked online service provider.

Third, a recent RTI has disclosed that the Review Committee, which is required to meet every two months to review orders of the committee, has not disagreed with a single decision of the committee. This raises doubts on the effectiveness of the review mechanism which has been provided as a safeguard against excesses of the committee.

Fourth, given that non-compliance with directions under the IT Rules can lead to loss of immunity from liability for content being hosted, it has been argued that intermediaries over-comply with these directions, which can have chilling effects on free speech. The Supreme Court in *Shreya Singhal* has upheld the procedure enshrined in IT Rules, 2009 on the basis that it provides for adequate application of mind and transparency. The government would do well to follow its own rules, in form as well as spirit.

The writer is a research fellow at the Centre for Applied Law and Technology Research, Vidhi Centre for legal policy

EXPLAINER

The controversy around parking spaces

How will the Supreme Court ruling that promoters have no right to sell 'stilt parking spaces' impact consumers?

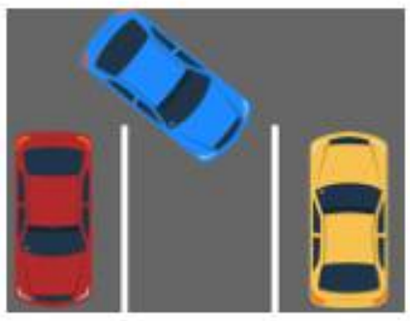
G.S. BAJPAI
SANGEETA TAAK

The story so far: The question of whether stilt parking slots are equivalent of "garage area" and use of the areas allocated for these by promoters for other purposes have been a recurring issue recently. Some years back, the Supreme Court in *Nahalchand Laloochand & Co. Ltd. vs Panchali Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.*, dismissed the appeal of the promoter, Nahalchand Laloochand Pvt Ltd, challenging the Bombay High Court ruling that under the MOFA (Maharashtra Ownership Flats Act), a builder cannot sell parking slots in the stilt area as independent flats or a garage. The Apex Court decided the four major contentions in the case (i) whether a stand-alone 'garage' is a 'flat' within the meaning of Section 2(a-1) of MOFA; (ii) whether stilt parking space/open parking space of a building regulated by MOFA is a 'garage'; (iii) if the answer to the aforesaid questions is in the negative, then the question was whether stilt parking spaces/open parking spaces in such a building are part of 'common areas and facilities' and (iv) what are the rights of the promoter vis-à-vis the society (of flat purchasers) with respect to open parking space/s / stilt parking space/s. All these questions were considered in the light of statutory provisions in this judgment.

What constitutes a 'flat' under MOFA?
Section 2(a-1) of MOFA defines a "flat" as a separate and self-contained set of premises used or intended to be used for residence, or office, show-room etc. for carrying on any industry or business (and includes a garage), the premises forming part of a building and includes an apartment. It means that even if there is a sanitary, washing, or bathing facility shared between two sets of premises, each set of premises is deemed to be separate.

What did the Court rule?
The Court, interpreting the phrase – 'and includes garage' – said that it must be read with the 'set of premises' and not with the uses. It also observed that the statutory definition of 'flat' should be interpreted taking into consideration the legislature's intent and the statute's context. If 'garage' (or a garage by itself) was intended by the legislature to be a 'flat' within the meaning of Section 2(a-1), it could have been conveniently conveyed by use of the expression 'or garage' after the word 'business' in the same breath. The bracketed phrase is rather indicative of the legislative intention to include a 'garage' as an accessory or attachment to a flat which satisfies the ingredients of Section 2(a-1).

What did the SC rule on stilt parking spaces?
In deciding the second contention, the SC again determined that stilt parking spaces



are not garages. It said that the term 'garage' has not been defined in MOFA and therefore, the SC interpreted the term 'garage' as used in Section 2(a-1) in a general sense, or as a flat purchaser of ordinary prudence would think of that term. A 'garage' is a place having a roof and walls on three sides. It does not include an unenclosed or uncovered parking space. It means the words 'covered/open garage' cannot override the true meaning of the term 'garage' in Section 2(a-1). As a matter of fact, none of the provisions of MOFA regards 'open garage' as connoting a 'flat' or an appurtenant/attachment to a flat. It would be impossible for an ordinary person to think that buying an open-to-sky flat with space for parking motor vehicles is a garage. There is no uniform definition of a garage but certainly, every parking space for motor vehicles is not one. A roofless erection could not be described as a garage.

With regard to the third contention, are stilt parking spaces part of the common area or facility?
The Supreme Court questioned the view taken by the High Court. The Supreme Court took the definition under Section 3(f) of MOFA which defines 'common areas and facilities'. The Court expressed the view that in case the open/stilt parking space is treated as part of 'common areas', every flat purchaser will have to bear the proportionate cost for the same although he may not be interested in such a parking space. Moreover, it is not necessary that all flat purchasers must actually use all 'common areas' and facilities. Third, the relevant test is whether such part of the building is normally in common use. The Court, however, relied on the same viewpoint that an open-to-the-sky parking area or stilted portion usable as parking space is not a 'garage' and therefore, not sellable independently as a flat or along with a flat.

The MOFA mandates the promoter to describe 'common areas and facilities' in the advertisement. If a promoter does not fully disclose the common areas and facilities he does so at his own peril. Stilt parking spaces would not cease to be part of common areas and facilities merely because the promoter has not described the same as such in the advertisement and agreement with the flat purchaser.

What are the rights of a promoter vis-à-vis the society with respect to stilt parking spaces?
It was argued that the right of the promoter to dispose of the stilt parking space is a matter falling within the domain of the promoter's contractual, legal and fundamental right. The Supreme Court said that this argument cannot be accepted as it had already denied this contention that 'stilt parking space' is not covered by the term 'garage' much less a 'flat' and that it is part of 'common areas'. In its opinion, the SC found that MOFA restricts the rights of the promoter in a building or block being constructed for the purpose of providing apartments. The promoter has no right to sell any portion of a building which is not a 'flat' within the meaning of Section 2(a-1). The promoter has no right to sell 'stilt parking spaces' as these are neither 'flats' nor appurtenant/accessory or attachment to a 'flat'. The resulting judgment rejected all the four contentions and arguments of a real estate development company that was going to sell garages/stilt parking areas as separate flats to owners who intend to use it as parking facilities.

G.S.Bajpai is Vice-Chancellor at Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab where Sangeeta Taak is Assistant Professor

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court in *Nahalchand Laloochand & Co. Ltd. vs Panchali Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.*, dismissed the appeal, challenging the Bombay High Court ruling that under the MOFA (Maharashtra Ownership Flats Act), a builder cannot sell parking slots in the stilt area as flats or garages.
- The SC determined that stilt parking spaces are not garages. It said that the term 'garage' has not been defined in MOFA and therefore, the SC interpreted the term 'garage' as used in Section 2(a-1) in a general sense. A 'garage' is a place having a roof and walls on three sides. It does not include an unenclosed or uncovered parking space.
- The Court expressed that open/stilt parking spaces should be treated as part of 'common areas'.

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A scene from Season 7, Episode 4 of *Game of Thrones*. • AP

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Streaming fantasy: Ever evolving, forever frozen

With ***House of the Dragon***, a prequel to the eye-wateringly successful ***Game of Thrones***, dropping on August 21, a look at the constant reinvention of the genre

MINI ANTHIKAD CHHIBBER

THE GIST

- Marlon James's *Dark Star* trilogy is a richly imagined world blending African history and myth. It is very different from the European medieval-inspired fantasy.
- This millennium has seen an uptick in fantasy. 2001 brought in a revolution in fantasy films with the release of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*. Ten years later, *Game of Thrones*, did the same for long-form television.
- Dragons have been a constant presence in our myths and stories, prompting learned anthropologists, sociologists and our favourite, pop-psychologists, to posit a link between dragons and jolly dinosaurs.

Marlon James, author of the mind-bending *Dark Star* trilogy while commenting on Michael. B. Jordan acquiring the rights to his 2019 novel, *Black Leopard, Red Wolf* said , "our cinematic language of sci-fi and fantasy is still very European."

James' novel is a richly imagined world blending African history and myth. It is very different from the European medieval-inspired fantasy we have seen from the sword-and-sandal sagas, including *Conan the Librarian* (it would have been fun to hear Arnold Schwarzenegger promise to be back from among dusty card catalogues) to the bloody, brutal *Game of Thrones*.

Fantastic beasts

The millennium saw an uptick in fantasy – psychologists will surely have a theory for that. 2001 brought in a revolution in fantasy films with the release of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*. Ten years later in 2011, *Game of Thrones*, created a tsunami in the world of long-form television.

Over eight seasons and 73 episodes, David Benioff and D. B. Weiss created a brand new template not just for fantasy but also how content was consumed. Even as binging whole seasons became a norm, there were fans around the world waiting for episodes every Sunday night (6.30 am on Monday for India).

Shot in the arm

Based on George R. R. Martin's fantasy novel series, *A Song of Ice and Fire*, *Game of Thrones* was a shot in the arm for the genre for many reasons. Budgeted and shot like a feature film, *Game of Thrones*, like Martin's novels, were neo-medieval. They were not so much about quests or the ultimate triumph of good over evil, but more about ambition, power play and the basic fallibility of human nature. The blood, sex, gore and profanity were so many glittering, glossy cherries on this already overloaded cake.

Following three plot-lines – the battle for the Iron Throne of Westeros, the threat of the White Walkers in the North and the claims of Daenerys Targaryen, the last survivor of House Targaryen, *Game of Thrones* used magic sparingly. With not too many weird and wonderful creatures, dragons were a spectacular and welcome surprise in the series.

Enter the dragon

Dragons have been a constant presence in our myths and stories, prompting learned anthropologists, sociologists and our favourite, pop-psychologists, to posit a link between dragons and jolly dinosaurs. Samantha Shannon, whose 2019 fantasy novel *The Priory of the Orange Tree* is a feminist retelling of the story of St. George and the dragon, in an interview said, "the words that come to mind when I think of dragons are danger, wonder and possibility. They embody my desire for magic to exist. I love how unapologetically powerful they are."

While both *House of the Dragon* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* continue the European medieval look and feel, it would be nice if the genre were to explore other histories and cultures

Dragons are an intrinsic part of the House Targaryen and in *House of the Dragon* they are present in all their sinewy, serpentine glory. Based on Martin's *Fire & Blood* (2018), the 10-episode series is a prequel set 200 years before the *Game of Thrones*. The show, dropping on August 21, (6.30 am on August 22 in India) like the book, follows the Targaryens' rise and fall from power.

With Ryan J. Condal (he has created the show with Martin) and Miguel Sapochnik as showrunners, *House of the Dragon* has an ensemble cast including Paddy Considine, Emma D'Arcy, Matt Smith, Olivia Cooke, Steve Toussaint, Eve Best, Fabien Frankel, Sonoya Mizuno and Rhys Ifans. Ramin Djawadi returns for composer duties.

Good, bad, indifferent

Game of Thrones was followed by a slew of quasi-historical, revisionist fantasy shows that run the gamut of good, bad and indifferent. *The Wheel of Time* based on Robert Jordan's book series despite the presence of the lovely Rosamund Pike plodded along while *The Witcher* based on Andrzej Sapkowski's novels skated smoothly on Henry Cavill's broad shoulders. *Cursed*, a revisionist look at Arthurian legend, was fun but got canceled after one season (sigh) and there is also the excellent *His Dark Materials* based on Philip Pullman's iconic eponymous trilogy.

Speaking of iconic, Neil Gaiman's long-believed to be unfilmable graphic novel, *The Sandman*, is streaming on a screen near you. A magnificent cast led by Tom Sturridge and gorgeous production values have given shape to our wildest dreams and nightmares. There is, after all a serial killer with eye teeth...

And another thing...

Hot on the heels of *House of the Dragon* comes *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*. Dropping on September 2, the one billion dollar show is set thousands of years before the events of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, and tells of the forging of the rings and the rise of Sauron.

While both *House of the Dragon* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* continue the European medieval look and feel, with vaguely Latin-sounding words, it would be nice if the genre were to explore other histories and cultures.

A break from dark, wood-panelled bars, village greens, chainmail and knights would be welcome. Dragons, however, can and should stay.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on photography to celebrate World Photography Day observed every year on August 19

1 The word photography is derived from the Greek 'photos' and 'graphein'. What does it mean?

2 Why is August 19 celebrated as World Photography Day?

3 In photography terminology, what do DSLR and JPEG stand for?

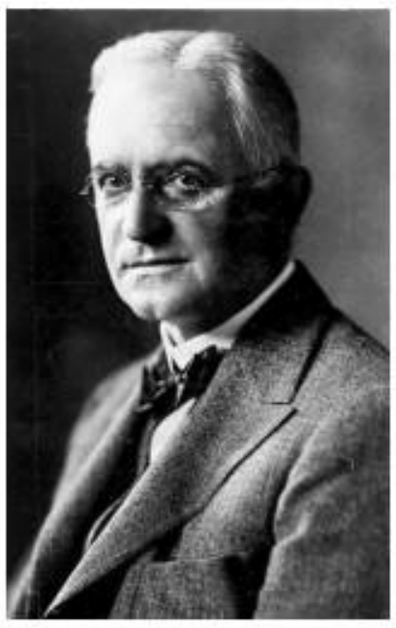
4 What is the biggest contribution of Edwin Land to the world of photography?

5 On March 5, 1960, Alberto Korda captured the likeness of an influential figure at a memorial service in Havana, and the image dubbed 'Guerrillero Heroico' is said to be one of the most reproduced images across various media. Whom did Korda shoot?

6 'Les Horribles Cernettes', an all-female pop group founded by CERN employees, lays claim to what 'first' in the world of the Internet?

7 Tony Duffy co-founded Allsport, the pioneering sports photo agency, on the strength of an iconic photograph of an athlete he took in 1968. Which athlete?

8 What two-word term did the legendary Henri Cartier-Bresson coin for 'capturing an event that is ephemeral and spontaneous?



◄ Name this American entrepreneur known globally for co-founding the legendary camera brand 'Kodak'. • THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The place where the Indian men's hockey team won the silver medal in the Olympics post independence. **Ans: 1960 (Rome)**
2. The first recipient of the Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 1992. **Ans: Viswanathan Anand**
3. The one member of the touring party who did not play in the 1983 Prudential World Cup. **Ans: Sunil Valson**
4. This current MP won five gold medals and a 4x100m bronze at the 1985 Jakarta Asian Championships. **Ans: P.T. Usha**
5. The sport in which Pranab Bardhan and Shibnath Sarkar won a gold medal in the 2018 Asian games. **Ans: Men's pair in Bridge**
6. The Indian swimmer who became the first Asian to conquer the English Channel from Dover to Calais. **Ans: Mihir Sen**
7. The scion of the Alwar royal family, who is a Guinness Book of World Records holder for being a National champion 16 times in a row in a ball game. **Ans: Bhuvneshwari Kumari**
Visual: India's first World champion after independence. **Ans: Wilson Jones in Billiards**

Early Birds: G. Krishnan| Rishi Kumar Agarwal| Vishi Sinha| S. Jagadish

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."
"Good morning."
"What are you reading, sir?"
"I am reading a biography of Abraham Lincoln, I have great admiration for him"
"I too admire him sir. He was such a simpleton."
"Well, Lincoln would agree with you. The public won't. What do you mean by 'simpleton'?"
"A simpleton is a person who leads a very simple life."
"Sorry, it doesn't mean that. I know that a lot of people use it in that sense. But a simpleton is a silly or a foolish person, I don't think you consider Lincoln a simpleton."
"Not at all, sir. He was such an intelligent and shrewd person. He was extraordinarily active. He was such a busybody.''
"It is true he was extraordinarily busy. But he is not a busybody. A busybody is a 'meddlesome person, a mischief-maker'. He is one who pokes his nose into other people's affairs. It is good to be busy but most undesirable to be a busybody. A busybody is disliked by all."
"Now I know the correct meaning, sir. Sir, are you going to Calcutta? You were thinking to go there."
'Yes. I was thinking of going to Calcutta. But I have dropped the idea now. You think of doing something. You don't think to do something. It is 'think of' and not 'think to'.
I thought of doing it.
I am thinking of meeting him.
He thought of dismissing her.
She thought of committing suicide.
He is thinking of going abroad for further studies."
"What's the difference between 'prospectus' and 'prospects', sir?"
'"Prospectus' is a document that outlines the main features of 'a school, commercial enterprise, forthcoming book' and so on.
Can I have a copy of the prospectus of your institute?
The prospectus will be ready soon.
I wanted to apply for some shares in this company, but I have changed my mind after going through its prospectus.
'Prospects' means 'chances of success' 'expectations'.
What are your prospects in this firm?
He joined the company as he thought that his prospects would be bright."
"Sir, is it 'consequent on' or 'consequent to?
"It is 'consequent on or upon'. It means 'following as a result'.
Consequent on heavy rain, the village was flooded.
Consequent on his arrest, his wife collapsed.
'Consequent on, upon' is used in formal contexts. It is not used in ordinary conservation. Well, let's stop here."
"Thank you, sir Goodbye."
"Goodbye."

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Traffic police flag over 1,500 vehicles with fake number plates

It has launched a special drive to identify violations; offenders to be booked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

It was a long battle for Badriprasad, a victim of a fake vehicle registration plate scam, to get back the ₹11,000 fine he paid for traffic violations which he never committed. But soon enough, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) nabbed Ramgopal, who violated traffic the norms sporting a registration number plate matching Badriprasad's.

This was one of the of the 10 cases detected by the police in the last one month alone. The Traffic Management Centre (TMC) has flagged over 1,500 vehicles with fake number plates so far on city roads, sources said. "We have launched a special drive against vehicles operating with fake registration numbers. Such vehicles will be seized and the persons will be booked under appropriate sections of IPC," said B.R. Ravikanthe Gowda, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic).

Traffic police have a new set of Standard Operating Procedures to verify vehicle documents and number plates. • FILE PHOTO

With increase in number of such cases, the traffic police on the ground have been given a new set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to verify and cross-check vehicle documents and the number plates thoroughly. "So far, the focus of the traffic police was only enforcement and slapping penalty. But with the rise in fake registration number plate cases, the police have been instructed to be more vigilant," Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain, DCP (Traffic-West) said. In case they catch a vehicle with a fake number plate, traffic personnel have been instructed to file a case against the offender with the law and order police and seize the vehicle for further investigation.

Owners of the vehicles also have a responsibility to dispute traffic norm violation penalties levied on them if they are sure of not violating the norms, as this would help the police flag fake cases. They are advised to check the BTP website for violations. In case of dispute, they should raise a complaint online, a senior police officer at TMC said.

At least 10 to 12 people visit the TMC everyday disputing the notices. Recently, a techie received a notice of ₹1,500 for traffic violations which he had not committed. He turned up at the TMC and checked the footage to find another vehicle using his registration number. The technical team at the TMC not only cancelled the notice but also red-flagged the vehicle and alerted the police. With enforcement cameras across the city operational, almost 90% of violations are available with the TMC for scrutiny.

'61.47 lakh took free bus ride'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Around 61.47 lakh passengers availed free bus travel offered by the BMTC to celebrate its silver jubilee on August 15 in Bengaluru.

People were able to travel on all types of buses for free. "A total of 5,051 buses were operated on August 15. On this day, 61,46,323 passengers availed the facility. An average of 28 lakh passengers have travelled daily in August (till August 14) in BMTC buses," a statement said on Thursday.

BMTC to lease 921 e-buses from Tata Motors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Tata Motors will lease 921 electric buses to Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC). The delivery of the e-buses will commence in September and be completed in a staggered manner, the automaker told *The Hindu*.

As per the contract, Tata Motors will supply, operate, and maintain the low-floor 12-metre e-buses for 12 years.

G. Sathyavathi, MD, BMTC, said: "We are delighted to confirm the order of 921 electric buses. It is paramount for Bengaluru's growing need for clean, sustainable urban mass mobility."

Rohit Srivastava, VP, Product Line-Buses, Tata Motors, said: "Tata Motors' commitment towards modernising public transportation in India is further strengthened by receiving the prestigious order of electric buses from BMTC"

Mahua Acharya, MD & CEO, Convergence Energy Services Ltd., said: "This is yet another significant milestone in the electric bus journey."

Tata Motors claims to have got orders for over 3,600 electric buses from various States in less than 30 days.

This includes an order for 1,500 e-buses from Delhi Transport Corporation, and for 1,180 e-buses from West Bengal Transport Corporation.

Biker killed in road accident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 21-year-old motorcycle rider was killed when he lost control and rammed into an electric pole in Jalahalli on Wednesday night.

Hemanth, resident of Gudi Agrahara and employee of a factory, was returning home from work. According to the police, he was riding the bike in a rash and negligent manner and lost control while negotiating a curve near a dhaba. Passersby rushed Hemanth to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared him as brought dead. The Jalahalli police have registered a case.

Deadline set to clear construction debris from footpaths

BBMP Commissioner orders officials to remove pipes and other material by Sunday 4 p.m.

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Following several complaints by pedestrians, Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath on Thursday ordered civic officials to clear all construction material, pipes, and other debris that have been lying on footpaths for a long time across the city by Sunday 4 p.m.

The assistant executive engineer (AEE) concerned of BBMP wards have been asked to clear the material and send a report with geotagged photos before and after removal of the debris.

Migrant workers take rest in water pipes near Cantonment railway station. • FILE PHOTO

Leaving construction debris, storing building materials on footpaths or on the street side is a menace across the city. Civic agencies are culprits too. In several instances, large pipes are left by the road for months blocking traffic and pedestrians. Civic officials said those using the footpath or street sides to store building material like sand and bricks for a shorter duration need not fear and only those obstructing the pathway for a long time, left unattended will be removed. The BBMP has also appealed to the public to flag such instances to the AEE of their respective wards.

The order by the BBMP commissioner has received good feedback from residents. Pavithra Gowda, resident of Koramangala, said: "Most times, pavements are encroached by debris, construction material, street vendors, or parked vehicles. Builders put pedestrians' lives at risk."

Prakash Kumar, from Banaswadi, said the BBMP has to take responsibility and make sure people who dump construction material are penalised. At the same time, residents constructing buildings should make sure they do not trouble pedestrians by dumping material on footpaths.

A senior official from BBMP said the builders have to make arrangements for storing material after completion of work. "Earlier, when such incidents were brought to our notice, a fine was collected from the offender and it was used to restore the footpath," he added.

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Breakthrough

Tunnel Boring Machine Vindhya achieved breakthrough at Pottery Town Metro Station on Thursday morning after completing 900 metres of tunnelling between Cantonment and Pottery Town Station. It tunnelled for 184 days. Till now, it cumulatively tunnelled through 1,755 metres, said BMRCL officials. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Disruption in power supply

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

There will be disruption in power supply on Saturday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the areas serviced from 66/11 KV Austin Town substation due to periodical maintenance works.

The areas that will be affected are: Victoria Layout, Palm Grove Road, Agaram, Vivek Nagar, Sonnenahalli, Vannarpet, Austin Town, Anjaneya Temple Street, KSRP Quarters, Lindon Street, Xavier Layout, Y.G. Palyam, Airforce Hospital, Domlur, Campbell Road junction, Richmond Road, Rudrappa Garden, M.G. Garen, Austin Town, Neelasandra, Bazar Street, R.K. Garden, Rose Garden, ORC Road.

ATREE marks silver jubilee with two-day event

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) is celebrating its silver jubilee on August 18 and 19 at the JN Tata Auditorium on IISc campus with several panel discussions, guest talks, film screenings and other events taking place.

Started in January 1996 as a research organisation to address environmental challenges of biodiversity loss and conservation for sustainable livelihoods, ATREE has worked in the areas of conservation of biological diversity and sustainable development, improvisation of institutional and policy framework for conservation of biodiversity and has helped governments and NGOs to make best use of the scientific knowledge to solve the problems of conservation.

After its initial days, a PhD in Conservation Science and Sustainability Studies programme was started in 2008 and in 2009, another interdisciplinary research institution, CISED was established by ATREE with donor support. Further, the Centre for Environment and Development, the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation and 20 research faculty members, including environmentalists, geographers, sociologists and hydrologists, emerged. In 2019, the Centre for Social and Environmental Innovation, and the Centre for Policy Design was launched.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Kamal Bawa, Founder, President & Chair, ATREE, said: "When we established ATREE, there was no institute that looked at biodiversity in a holistic manner. ATREE is one of the few institutions that deals with the three major environmental challenges of declining biodiversity, water, and mitigation of climate change."

The event, open to the public, has discussions on state of conservation science and sustainable development, debates, book launches, film screenings, and traditional performances.

Family of 3 found dead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 44-year-old contract employee, his wife, and minor son were found dead at their house at Srinidhi Layout in J.P. Nagar on Thursday.

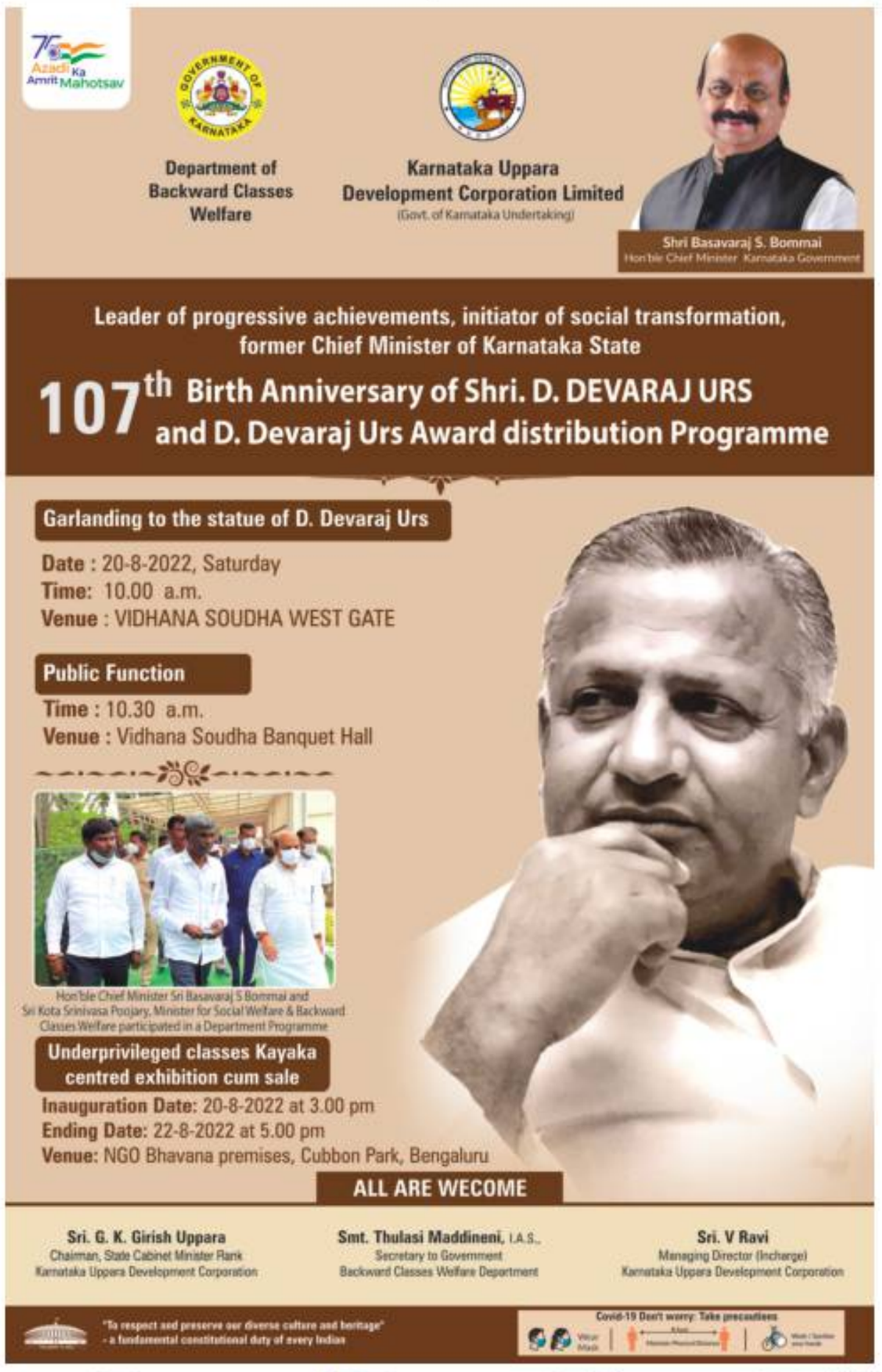
The deceased has been identified as Mahesh Kumar, Jyothi, 29, homemaker, and Nandeesh Gowda, nine, student of a private school.

According to the police, Mahesh was diagnosed with cancer and was under treatment for the last one month. He was upset about his health and police suspect that this could have led the couple to take the extreme step.

The incident came to light in the afternoon when neighbours went to check on the family.

The Konanakunte police shifted the bodies for post-mortem. The police suspect that it was a suicide pact.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)



Siddaramaiah gheraoed, pelted with eggs by BJP youth workers

The trigger for the protest was the Congress leader's recent criticism of Savarkar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Congress leader and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah faced the wrath of BJP Yuva Morcha workers in Kodagu over his recent remarks on Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar during his visit to flood-affected sites in the district on Thursday.

The BJP workers waved black flags at Mr. Siddaramaiah and shouted slogans, displaying the portraits of Savarkar. There were attempts to gherao his vehicle but the police foiled the bid. However, the workers managed to get past the police cordon and one of them threw a poster through the car's window asking Mr. Siddaramaiah to "go back". Some worker pelted eggs at the vehicle.

The immediate trigger for the protest was Mr. Siddaramaiah's recent criticism of Savarkar and his politics. Mr. Siddaramaiah had remarked that Savarkar had written mercy petition to the British seeking pardon and release from imprisonment and had made little contribution to the freedom struggle.

Siddaramaiah during his visit to flood-affected Kodagu on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- Mr. Siddaramaiah had remarked that Savarkar had written mercy petition to the British seeking pardon and release from imprisonment and had made little contribution to the freedom struggle.

'Act of cowardice'

Later in the day, Mr. Siddaramaiah lashed out saying it was a cowardly act to divert public attention from absence of governance.

Speaking to mediapersons, he said: "The BJP has failed on all fronts and neither is there a government in the State nor is there a semblance of governance."

"The BJP is perturbed that the Congress is set to win both the Assembly segments in the next elections and hence, was desperate to prevent me from touring in Kodagu," he added.

In a statement released in Bengaluru, Mr. Siddaramaiah slammed the BJP for propping up fake patriots with reference to Savarkar and said that it (BJP) was out to distort history. The BJP ideology clashes with that of true nationalists and patriots such as Bhagat Singh or the values propagated by Swami Vivekananda and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and hence it has stopped appropriating them, said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

'Dropped Nehru'

The government has issued advertisements in the media using taxpayers money, but it has dropped the name of Jawaharlal Nehru - who not only fought for freedom but laid the foundation stone for a modern India - from the list of freedom fighters name, chided Mr. Siddaramaiah.

He also alleged that Savarkar, who was being propped up as a freedom fighter by the BJP, espoused caste supremacy rooted in the tenets of Manu and there was no comparison with nationalist and humanist Bhagat Singh who valiantly faced the gallows. Mr. Siddaramaiah said people of the country should gleam through the pages of history to ascertain the truth failing which history would be distorted.

He also warned that if the youth of the country did not awaken, then the country will have to brace for another freedom struggle. The BJP was weakening the nation's economy and was diverting the people's attention to mask its lapses, said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

The incident has attracted criticism from the ruling party and the Chief Minister as well.

CM condemns

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said any difference of opinion has to be made through strong arguments and urged that no one resort to any such physical attack, that too against the Leader of Opposition of the State. Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa condemned the act of throwing eggs at the car and said the party will not tolerate any such acts of vandalism. Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said the department would ensure suitable security to the Leader of the Opposition across the State.

Meanwhile, JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy also condemned the attack. "No political party should create an atmosphere like this. This attack does not bring honour to the party," he said.

Maoist leader shifted to Thrissur jail from Hiriyadka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

After an order from a Kundapur court in Udupi district, the State Police on Thursday shifted Maoist leader B.G. Krishnamurthy from Hiriyadka Prison in the district to Thrissur Prison in Kerala.

Principal Civil Judge (Junior Division), Kundapur, Dhanesh Mugali on Wednesday rejected the plea of Krishnamurthy to retain him in the prison in the State. Krishnamurthy had contended that as he is faced cases in Karnataka, he should be retained in prisons here.

The police on Wednesday filed before the court charge-sheet in seven cases registered against Krishnamurthy and Savitri, who is said to be his associate. The charge-sheet relates to six cases registered in Shankaranarayana Police Station and one in Kollur Police Station, both in Udupi district. The judge committed the seven cases to Additional District and Sessions Court, Kundapur, for trial.

In November 2021, the National Investigation Agency arrested Krishnamurthy and Kabini Dalam Area Commander Rajith alias Savitri from the area adjoining Karnataka and Kerala border. They were accused in 21 cases related to Maoist activities in Kerala. Udupi Police questioned the two activists in connection with a Maoist attack in Hallihole of Kundapur taluk in December 2008.

Homemaker loses ₹12L to cybercrime

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The West division cybercrime police are on the lookout for a conman who befriended a 29-year-old homemaker on Facebook and cheated her of ₹4 lakh. She also fell prey to another cyber phishing attack and lost nearly ₹8 lakh in another instance.

The victim, Nethrawathi K., resident of Channasandra R.R. Nagar, was very active on social media when the conman posing as NRI befriended her.

A few days ago, an unidentified man posing as custom officer from New Delhi airport informed that there was a parcel with several thousand pounds and asked her to pay taxes to get the parcel. Excited by this, Nethrawathi paid ₹4,10,100 online and realised that she has been cheated. While she was in shock, an unidentified man called her offering online job and investment in trading to get quick returns.

Thinking that she would recover the loss by investing money, the victim transferred ₹7,91,100 from her two accounts. As soon as the money was transferred the person went incommunicado.

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: MU/REG/DEV/67/2022/D5
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.08.2022

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ಘಟಕ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿಗೆ ಅತಿಥಿ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ/ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.mangaloreuniversity.ac.in ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

DIPR/ADMN/CAN/492/2022-23, dt. 18.08.2022

ಸಹಿ/- ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, our clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its Owners **Dr. PLAVAKEERTHI KEMPARAJ URS** and **Mrs. AMSHUMATHI DEV** both are children of late Dr. Mavathur N Kemparajurs and late Smt.B.Lalitha. The Owners represent that they are the the absolute owners of the Schedule property and have good marketable, right, title and interest therein.

Apart from the above owners, if any person has any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule property or any part thereof, the same shall be filed with the undersigned with supporting documents, within **10 (ten) days** from the date of this Notice. Objections and or the claims received after expiry of the stipulated time will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed with the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Municipal No.18 (BDA Site No.298), PID No.58-100-18**, measuring East to West 119ft., and North to South (61+63)/2ft, in all measuring 7378 Sq.ft., with a house building thereon having built up area of about 4500 Sq.ft., situated at **1st Main Road, 8th Block, Jayanagar**, Bengaluru, within the limits of BBMP Ward No.58, New Ward No.179 and bounded as follows:

East by : Property bearing No.299
West by : Road
North by : Road
South by : Property bearing No.298/A

Sd/- **Bavya Reddy. M**
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 4th Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client **Mr. N.NAVEEN KUMAR**, Son of Mr. B.Narasimha Murthy, intends to purchase the immovable property described in the schedule hereunder from its owner **Mr. SANJAY SARDA**. Any person's having any claim, title and interest over the schedule property or any objections to the proposed purchase, may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting documents to the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of this publication and a copy of objections to the Purchasers' advocate, below mentioned, failing which my client will be advised to go ahead and complete the formalities for registered Sale Deed.

:: **SCHEDULE** ::

All that piece and parcel of the house property bearing **Site No.273, Municipal No.273, PID No.57-148-273, situated at 3rd Main Road, 3rd Phase, J.P.Nagar (previously Sarakki III Phase), measuring East to West 57 and North to South 45 Feet, in all measuring 2565 square feet** and bounded on the :-

EAST BY : Site No.289 and 290;
WEST BY : Road;
NORTH BY : Site No.274;
SOUTH BY : Site No.272

SAHAI KUMAR, Advocate
#311, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main, 3rd Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-560078 Mob : 9845393974

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client **Mr.Muniraju.S**, Son of Mr. Shamanna.R, intends to purchase the immovable property described in the schedule hereunder from its owner, **M/s.SHRAVANEE PROJECTS**. Any person's having any claim, title and interest over the schedule property or any objections to the proposed purchase, may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting documents to the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of this publication and a copy of objections to the Purchasers' advocate, below mentioned, failing which my client will be advised to go ahead and complete the formalities for registered Sale Deed.

:: **SCHEDULE** ::

All that piece and parcel of the Vacant property bearing **Site No.96, TRINCO TAPASWI Layout, Formed in Converted Sy.No.55/8, situated at Gollahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50 Feet and North to South 41.9+39.212 Feet, in all measuring 2020 square feet,** and bounded on the:

East by : Road;
West by : Site No.85;
North by : Private Property;
South by : Site No.97;

SAHAI KUMAR, Advocate
#311, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main, 3rd Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-560078 Mob : 9845393974

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Mr.Prakash Naik and Smt.Saroja Bai** are intending to purchase the schedule properties from Smt.Dhakshayini PSri.Jayakumar C.R. who claim to be the absolute owners respectively.

Any person or persons who has got any claim or right, title and interest over the schedule property shall inform the under signed with documentary proof within **07 days** hereof failing which my clients will proceed with the said transaction complying with all legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Item No.1 : All that piece and parcel of portion of land bearing **Sy.No.43/11 (Old No.11)** measuring 0-10 ¼ Guntas, situated at **Gudimavu Village, Kengeri-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk** and bounded by:

EAST : Sy.No.43/17 belonging to C.R.Jayakumar
WEST : Sy.No.43/7 belonging to Smt. Dhakshayini P.
NORTH : 12 Mt Road in Sy.No.43
SOUTH : Land of Maqbool Ahmed

Item No.2 : All that piece and parcel of portion of land bearing Sy.No.43/17 (Old No.11) measuring 01 gunta, situated at Gudimavu Village, Kengeri-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded by :

EAST : Road formed in Sy.No.43/17 belonging to C.R.Jayakumar
WEST : Sy.No.43/11 belonging to Dhakshayini P.
NORTH : 12 Mt Road in Sy.No.43
SOUTH : Land of Maqbool Ahmed

Address
D. P. MAHESH, Advocate
No.22/1, 3rd Floor, Kanishka Hotel Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009.
Ph: 9880549946

Date: 18-08-2022, Place: Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri. J.S SIMHA, S/o. Sri. T. L. Jayasimha**, has intend to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner **Sri. K. V. Srinivasa Reddy, S/o. Sri. Venkataramana Reddy and his wife Smt. Manjula S. L., residing at No. 15, Near Shiva Temple, Kacharanahalli, Bangalore-560087.**

If any persons having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Residential Plot bearing No. 4, measuring East to West 40 Ft. and North to South 30 Feet in all measuring 1200 Sq. Ft. in the Layout Known as "RAINBOW BOULEVARD PHASE-I" formed out of converted land bearing Sy. No. 85/4 & 85/5 conversion order No.ALN/VZP)SR74/2019-20, dated 05-02-2020 situated at Mullur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and bounded on :-

East By : Private Property, West By : Road,
North By : Plot No.3, South By : Plot No.5.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross,
Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068
Mob: 9845965626, 7406986832

BANGALORE, DATE : 18-08-2022

Priyank questions Bommai's silence on KCR comment about Raichur

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

Criticising Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai for his silence over his Telangana counterpart K. Chandrasekhar Rao's remarks on Raichur, KPCC spokesman and former Minister Priyank Kharge said that he was disappointed as neither Mr. Bommai nor his Cabinet colleagues had made any statement on the issue.

Taking to Twitter on Thursday, Mr. Kharge said that Mr. Rao had claimed that some people of Raichur wanted their district merged with Telangana because of that State's welfare schemes. He expressed unhappiness over the Karnataka government not countering Mr. Rao's statement even after 24 hours. "Your inaction has encouraged Telangana CM to boldly stake claim to Raichur. This is unacceptable. Raichur belongs to & will remain in Karnataka," Mr. Kharge said in one of the three tweets referring to the silence of Mr. Bommai.

Mr. Kharge questioned the government's "step-motherly attitude" towards Kalyana Karnataka and asked what action was taken against the MLA who had apparently suggested merging Raichur with Telangana.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the district collectorate complex at Vikarabad in Telangana on Tuesday, Mr. Rao had claimed that some people in Raichur wanted their area merged with Telangana to enjoy the welfare schemes introduced in the State.

Mr. Rao appeared to have made the statement referring to the remarks of BJP leader and MLA for Raichur Shivaraj Patil. A video clip in which Mr. Patil, airing dissatisfaction before Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chavan over the government's negligence towards Raichur, was heard suggesting the merger of Raichur with Telangana.

However, speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Patil blamed the Congress for "hatching conspiracy" to tarnish his image for political gains.

Auto driver held for killing sex worker

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bommanahalli police arrested a 28-year-old autorickshaw driver who bludgeoned a sex worker to death to rob her money and mobile phone before dumping her body near Madivala lake on August 11.

The accused Imran, resident of Anjanapura, had met the victim twice and on August 11, he took her again to the Madivala lake bed where he bludgeoned her to death with a boulder and escaped with her purse containing mobile phone and ₹3,500.

"The body of the victim bore no clues on the crime or the identity. Once we identified the victim, we managed to track down the accused after going through an exhaustive amount of footage with poor lighting," C.K. Baba, DCP South East, said.

The police circulated photographs of the dead body and checked for missing complaints. The police managed to identify the deceased and through her husband got to know about her mobile number.

The police analysed the call record details and found that the victim had dialled the number of the accused, which he had shared with her an hour before committing the crime. A detailed questioning led him to confess that he blackmailed her threatening to inform police about her profession. But, when the victim refused to give him money, the accused decided to kill her.

FORM No.STK-5A
PUBLIC NOTICE
{Pursuant to clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section248 of the Companies 2013 and Rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016}

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

कंपनी रजिस्ट्रार, कर्नाटक / Registrar of Companies, Karnataka
केंद्रीय सदन, 2 मंजिल, 'ई' विंग / Kendriya Sadan, 2nd Floor, 'E'-Wing,
कोरमंगला, बंगलूरु - 560 034 / Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 034
दूरभाष : 080-25537449/25633105
E-mail ID : roc.bangalore@mca.gov.in

Public Notice No.ROCB /STK-5A /S.248(1)(d)/2022 Dated: 17.08.2022

NOTICE

In the matter of striking off of companies under section 248(1)(d) of the Companies Act, 2013.

1. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka has a reasonable cause to believe that the list of 4372 companies whose names are provided in link below, have not paid the subscription amount which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of the company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within a period of 180 days of its incorporation as required under section 10A (1) of the Companies Act, 2013. **https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mds=ZLXWjTakSnpk88vp7hG%252FsA%253D%253D&type=open** And, therefore, proposes to remove/ strike off the names of the companies from the register of companies and dissolve them unless a cause is shown to the contrary, within thirty days from the date of this notice by invoking section 248(1)(d) of Companies Act 2013.

2. Any person objecting to the proposed removal/ striking off of the name of the companies from the register of companies may send his objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES, KARNATAKA

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **SUNITA** Damal, W/o Service No. 8034862H Rank- HAV Name- Silash Damal, presently posted in Pioneer Corp Training Centre, New Key Location Plan, Banasawadi Garison, Bengaluru-560033 hereby state that my DOB has been wrongly entered as 10-05-1978 in my husband's service records but my correct DOB is 10-05-1979 vide affidavit dt: 18.08.2022 sworn before Notary A.R.Munser Ahmed, B'lore.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENGALURU BENCH AT BENGALURU (ORIGINAL JURISDICTION) IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 66 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND IN THE MATTER OF IBM GLOBAL FINANCING INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

CP No.100/ BB/2022

IBM GLOBAL FINANCING INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN: U65990KA2016FTC093733
Registered Office at No.12, Subramanya Arcade, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore – 560029
...PETITIONER COMPANY

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Notice may be taken that CP No. 100/BB/2022 is filed on 14th June 2022 ('**Company Petition**') before the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench at Bengaluru ('**Hon'ble Tribunal**'), for confirming the reduction of the share capital of **IBM Global Financing India Private Limited** ('**Company**') for confirming the reduction of the issued, subscribed and paid-up capital of the Company from INR 52,00,08,000 (Rupees Fifty Two Crores Only) consisting of 5,20,00,000 (Five Crores Twenty Lakhs Only) equity shares of INR 10/- each to INR 1,08,000 (Rupees One Lakh Only) consisting of 10,000 (Ten Thousand Only) equity shares of INR 10/- each by cancelling and extinguishing 5,19,90,000 (Five Crore Nineteen Lakhs and Ninety Thousand) issued, subscribed and paid-up equity shares of INR 10 (Rupee Ten Only) each and paying against such shares cancelled a sum of INR 51,99,00,000 (Rupees Fifty One Crore Ninety Nine Lakhs Only) being INR 10 (Rupee Ten Only) per equity share to be paid on par.

The Company has no secured creditor and one unsecured creditor and notice in Form RSC-3 is issued to the unsecured creditor of the Company in this regard. The list confirming nil secured and one unsecured creditor in the company prepared on May 31, 2022by the Company is available at the Registered Office of the Company for inspection on all working days during 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. up to three months of date of publication of this notice.

If any creditor of the Company has any objection to the Company Petition or the details in the list of creditors, the same may be sent (along with supporting document) and details about his name and address and the name and address of his Authorized Representative, if any, to the undersigned at SPJ Legal, Unit No 306, 3rd Floor, #38, Prestige Meridian II, MG Road, Bengaluru – 560 001 within three months of the date of this Notice.

In case no objection is received within the time stated above, entries in the list of creditors will, in all the proceedings under the above Company Petition to reduce the share capital of the Company, be treated as correct.

It may also be noted that a hearing has been fixed for 19th September 2022 which the Hon'ble Tribunal shall hear the Company Petition. In case any creditor intends to attend the hearing, he should make a request along with his objections, if any.

Dated this August 19, 2022 at Bengaluru.

ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER
SAJI P JOHN
SPJ Legal
Unit No 306, 03rd Floor, #38, Prestige Meridian II, MG Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
Ph: 08845389798, E-mail: saji@spjlegal.com

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MOHSEENA** S, R/o No.35, Yellamma Temple Road, Govindpura, Arabic College Post, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Mouseena S vide affidavit dt: 16.08.2022 sworn before Notary H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya, B'lore.

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT
Notice for e- Tender

Tender No. F2/058/2021/ M

Bids are invited online under Two Cover system for "Tender for engagement of 30 Fire Personnel under manpower contract basis for 2 years extendable by another one year with the scope to increase the Fire Personnel up to a maximum of 40 Fire personnel on second year, approximately 5 to 10 Fire personnel as and when required". Estimated cost put to tender: Rs.2,12,11,140/- (Excluding Applicable GST) For details visit websites: www.chennaiport.gov.in https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

-Sd-
Deputy Conservator.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SYED** Musthafa Syed Hussain S/o Syed Hussain residing at HKP Apartment, Flat No. G4, 95/5, 2nd Cross, LCS Layout, Lalijnagar, Lakkasandra, Bengaluru-560030 Karnataka, have changed my name to Syed Musthafa vide affidavit dated 17/08/2022 before N. Nagappa Notary, Bengaluru.

I, **ASMA** Mujawar W/o Muzaffar Ali Jagirdar residing at Plot No.2 C S 1014, Veerabhadra Nagar, 7th Cross, Farugiya Colony, Belgaum-590016 Karnataka have changed my name to Asma Muzaffar Ali Jagirdar vide affidavit dated 17/08/2022 before N.Nagappa Notary, Bengaluru.

I, **KRISHNA** Kumar F/o Amitosh Krishna Kumar R/o No. 2404, A Block, Lake Verandah, House of Hiranandani, Westend Avenue Hulimavu, Beduar Road, Akshyanagar, Bangalore-560068 have changed my minor son's name from Amitosh Krishna Kumar to Amitosh Kumar Rao K vide affidavit dated 18-08-2022 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BENGALORE (CCH-75)
O.S. NO. 25153/2022

Between :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road
Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager
Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
V/S
Mr. RADHU RAM. N ...Defendant

Summons To Defendant

Mr. RAGHU RAM. N,
S/o. Mr. Narayanappa, Aged About 44 Years, Jadigenahalli, Hosakote T, Mugabala, Bangalore- 562114.

Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 4,97,103.28/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousand One Hundred Three and Paise Twenty Eight Only)** apart from future interest of 15.50% p.a., in O.S. No. 25153/2022 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 75, Before Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 30th Day of September 2022 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 10th Day of August 2022.

Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru- 560001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES
New No. 9, Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BENGALURU (CCH-58)
O.S. NO. 25345/2020
Hg. 20/09/2022

Between :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road
Bangalore 560001
Represented by its Manager
Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
V/S
Mr. Bibhudatta Mohanty ...Defendant

Summons To Defendant

Mr. Bibhudatta Mohanty,
S/o. Mr. Subas Chandra Mohanty, Aged About 35 Major, C3, 21/1, D Vr Complex, 17th Cross, 28th Main, JP Nagar, 6th Phase Muniyappa Graden, Near Bus Stop, Bangalore-560096.

Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 4,62,126.71/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty Six and Paise Seventy One Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in O.S. No. 25345/2020 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 58, Before 57th Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 20th Day of September 2022 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 5th Day of August 2022.

By the Order of Court
Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru- 560001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES
New No. 9, Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005.

Over 88% of COVID fatalities in August from outside Bengaluru

While the Case Fatality Rate in city is 0.03%, it stands at 0.5% in rest of the State

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

With a gradual increase in the number of COVID cases, fatalities are again on the rise. Over 88% of the total deaths reported this month (till August 17) are from districts other than Bengaluru Urban.

From 29 deaths in July, the number has shot up to 51 this month so far. Of the 51, only six deaths are from Bengaluru Urban. With 18,170 cases reported in Bengaluru in August, the average Case Fatality Rate (CFR) here stands at 0.03%. Whereas, 8,963 cases and 45 deaths have been reported in districts other than Bengaluru. This has taken the CFR in districts to 0.50%. Overall, the State's average CFR stands at 0.18%.

Taking note of this, the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has recommended a comprehensive audit of all deaths. "There is a gradual rise in deaths in districts outside Bengaluru. These COVID deaths need to be audited at the State level with recommendations for action to prevent such occurrence in future. We have recommended that the matter should be immediately referred to the state death audit committee for further action. Besides, genomic sequencing reports of these deaths (wherever available) should also be studied," TAC chairman M.K. Sudharshan told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

A health worker administering COVID-19 vaccination in Bengaluru. • FILE PHOTO

COVID deaths this year	
January	716
February	901
March	97
April	5
May	6
June	10
July	29
August (till 17th)	51

Senior citizens

"Our analysis shows that 91% of the deaths in August were among the elderly (over 60 years of age) and over 80% had multiple comorbid conditions. Only 8% were less than 60 years of age and mostly free from comorbidities," Mr. Sudharshan said.

"Hence, it is recommended that an Information, Education and Communication campaign be conducted to create awareness among the elderly and those with comorbidities about the need to avoid home isolation and opt for hospital care," he asserted. State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said that based on TAC recommendations, a circular has been issued advising the elderly and those with comorbidities to seek hospital care soon after onset of symptoms or testing positive.

Pointing out that the death audit is an ongoing process, the Commissioner said an audit of August deaths has begun. He attributed the high number of deaths in the rest of Karnataka to later reporting and referrals to hospitals.

Incidental COVID positive

In Bengaluru, most of the deaths are among those who were found to be incidentally COVID positive when they were hospitalised either for surgeries or other major health issues. The BBMP death audit committee that met on Thursday took up an audit of 22 deaths reported in the city from June 1 till August 15.

K.V. Trilok Chandra, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health), said the committee found that COVID was an incidental finding in most of the 22 deaths. "The committee deliberated on the cause of death and concluded that most had comorbidities and were fully vaccinated including the precaution doses. Some had not taken the precaution dose but we are not sure if they were eligible and due for it. The need of the hour is to intensify booster dose coverage," he said.

Late presentation

Anoop Amarnath, member of the State COVID-19 Critical care Support Unit, who heads the department of geriatric medicine at Manipal Hospitals, said late presentation has been a common reason for deaths during every surge.

"Despite having symptoms, people are not ready to get tested. They turn up at hospitals only after developing complications by when it is late. This is especially among the elderly and those with comorbidities," he said.

"In Bengaluru, deaths have been very low and even those with multiple comorbidities are recovering quickly. It is always important to get tested when symptomatic. Besides, proper monitoring of those under home isolation is another essential aspect," the doctor added.

Scope of Home Science extends far beyond home, say experts

It is no longer just a course which creates homemakers, but nutritionists, public health workers and more

JAHNAVI T. R.
BENGALURU

Up until a few years ago, the course 'Home Science' was perceived by people as a course which teaches women cooking and home management. With only women's colleges offering the course, the stereotype kept growing. But today, graduates and post graduates of Home Science have secured jobs in various industries including public health organisations both within the country and abroad.

Home science is one of the older subjects which were prescribed for students along with philosophy, logic and the like. While the syllabus of philosophy has not changed much at all over the years, logic is hardly offered in any colleges at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The subject has become a paper in legal studies, experts say. With Home Science, from the 1960s, when the course was initially introduced to now, the curriculum has been revamped several times to suit the needs of the industrial world. However, not many are aware of the changes in the course.

Food and nutrition, nutrition and dietetics, human development are some of the subjects that have been part of Home Science course for a long time now. • FILE PHOTO

Food and nutrition, nutrition and dietetics, fashion and apparel design (FAD), human development, interior design are some of the subjects that have been part of Home Science course for a long time now.

In recent years, other papers like clinical nutrition and graphic design, extension in education, which are more relevant in today's job market have also been introduced in home science colleges.

"Food, nutrition and dietetics courses are highly in demand while FAD is also very popular. Some subjects like interior design might be a little connected with home making, but most people who pursue this course secure good jobs. Many of them get immediately absorbed at hospitals," explained L. Gomathi Devi, Vice Chancellor, Maharani Cluster University. She added that even under the National Education Policy (NEP) many students are choosing Home Science as an open elective indicating good demand for the course.

Home Science students are now also employed by NGOs, Public Health organisations and other corporate companies. They also go on to pursue postgraduate studies in either Home Science itself or other allied subjects like Social Work to secure good jobs.

"This course has now taken a different dimension. It is no more cooking and tailoring. It was a subject for homemakers in the yesteryears, but now it is a very entrepreneurial oriented paper. With the Skill India movement, there are a lot of opportunities for these students. They can be entrepreneurs or homepreneurs with a scientific edge," said Sundaravalli, Head of Department, Home Science, Mount Carmel College.

She explained that with papers like Extension in Education, students can also work in CSR initiatives. Further, under the paper of resource management, students learn about time, financial and energy management. "They also learn ergonomics and certain areas of interior design management, conservation of resources and waste management, which are all very important now." She added that while a student who studied the course went on to become one of the country's top three registered dieticians, some others are working at the Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) and some at a University in UK on Public Health.

Battling the stereotype

Lecturers at various colleges agree that Home Science should be promoted as a professional course rather than its stereotypical image. They say that awareness should be created about the opportunities that the course provides. "We feel a little bad about the nomenclature as there is a still a taboo over it that the students who finish this course become homemakers," Ms. Sundaravalli pointed out.

State reports 2,329 new cases, 4 deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Thursday recorded 2,329 new infections taking the total number of cases to 40,36,825. With this, the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) stood at 7.78% and the weekly TPR touched 6.61%. Of the new cases, 1,606 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

With four deaths, the State's toll touched 40,159. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded. As many as 1,782 persons were discharged on Thursday taking the total recoveries to 39,87,317. Active cases stood at 9,307 on Thursday. As many as 29,904 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours. With this, the total number of tests rose to 6,83,01,037.

FROM PAGE ONE

HC poser to government on solving CET ranking row

The marks were awarded to the students in II PU course in 2021 based on a special formula, which considered their marks of SSLC exams, I PU course and internal marks assigned by the colleges in the II PU course.

Hence, the government said, that the students who completed the II PU course in 2021 without requiring to appear for the written examination cannot claim consideration of the marks awarded based on a special formula. To a query by the court, the government counsel said that the government did conduct written examination for II PU in 2021 after COVID-19 situation improved, and had said that students not satisfied with the marks awarded based on the special formal can appear for the written examination. Referring to the data of marks awarded to II PU students in the years 2020, 2021 and 2022, the government said that marks were awarded liberally in 2021 based on the special formula, and considering such marks awarded without conducting written exams, would cause great injustice to the students who have secured marks by appearing for the written exams of the II PU course in 2022.

Unidentified man found dead in water sump

Police find no visible marks on body; autopsy report awaited

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The police recovered the body of an unidentified man aged around 30 in a water sump in MS Building on Thursday.

The incident came to light when fireman came to fetch water for the fire tender from the sump and found the body floating. Vidhana Soudha police have shifted the body for postmortem.

There were no visible marks on the body and postmortem report will ascertain the exact reason behind the death, a police officer said.

The police have alerted other police stations in and around the city to get the identification of the body.

Ban orders extended in Shivamogga

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SHIVAMOGGA

Shivamogga Deputy Commissioner Selvamani R. has issued an order extending the prohibitory orders until 6 a.m. on Saturday.

As per the earlier order, the prohibitory orders were in place up to 10 p.m. on Thursday. Schools and colleges will function normally. All commercial establishments are allowed to function up to 9 p.m.

City eateries serve up concept dining

They are following conceptual dining ideas that offer more than food and drinks

SIMRAN AHUJA
BENGALURU

Everyone remembers the good old days when visiting a restaurant was usually a family outing reserved for the weekends. From start to finish, the experience would last two hours at the most. Cut to now, when restaurants in the city offer more than just a good meal and have become go-to spots for new experiences.

In the last few months, Bengaluru has seen a slew of new dining joints that sprinkle a little something extra in their experience. For instance, 10 Speakeasy, which has a hidden entrance and a password to enter. Then there's Meter Bar, where customers are billed based on the time they spend on a drink, or Record Room, which is equal parts taproom and vinyl bar.

Paper & Pie, also new on the block, is a cafe where creators and working professionals can find more than just coffee.

"Post the pandemic, there was an impetus on restaurants to not just offer great food, but also innovate in what they can provide to their customers. Everyone got so comfortable ordering food indoors that now, we don't just want something to tingle our tastebuds. There needs to be a value addition too," explains Razia Ali, a food-tech entrepreneur who founded Blend For Food.

The Courtyard allows patrons to watch a movie while having dinner. • SIMRAN AHUJA

This "value addition" at Record Room takes a clear form. It's a place where people can come and check out over 200 vinyl records as they enjoy some coffee, brews, or Brazilian food. The craft beer and vinyl bar has three turntables present.

One of them is manned by a DJ for the bar, another allows for an individual listening experience, and there's also a limited edition white turntable dedicated to *White Album* by the Beatles (one of 500 in the world).

The individual listening station, in fact, has been a big hit. So much so that co-founder Karthik Chandrasekaran is considering investing ₹50,000 in adding one more.

Paper & Pie in Indiranagar aims to redefine the working experience. Part cafe, part creative space, the place also has a conference and podcasting room. In short, "It is a space where people can eat, talk, create, and collaborate," says co-founder Vamshi Reddy. Over in Shantinagar, The Courtyard combines the best of two experiences - watching a movie and dining. Since 2021, founder Akhila Srinivas has been organising open-air movie screenings, where participants also get to dig into food that's inspired by the film. Think a three-course Indian, Indonesian and Italian meal for *Eat, Pray, Love*, Cubano sandwiches for *Chef*, a Greek spread for *Mamma Mia*, and so on. Originally a pre-pandemic idea, its popularity has surged now, with tickets selling out within 72 hours of it being announced. "Earlier, we would still have vacancies on the day of the event," says Ms. Srinivas.

Ms. Srinivas suggests that the lockdown-induced interest in food is also what makes such dining ideas popular.

"People started following chefs, taking cooking classes, and becoming more aware of the food culture. The new perspective translated into wanting something different from the mundane," she says.

Bistro Claytopia in Koramangala isn't just a cafe, but also a go-to place for those who want to paint ceramics. The Firefly Terrace in Jayanagar, has in the past, combined breakfast with games and crafts. "Concept places are bringing the emotion back into the F&B industry. Now, you get to network and meet like-minded people too," says Mr. Ali.

Restaurateurs too get a bigger slice of the pie with increased dwell time..

"The bill racked up at these places might be about 15-20% more than a regular restaurant. But combine it with an experience, say a three-course meal with an open-air movie, and it seems acceptable," says Mr. Ali.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, AUG. 19	
RISE	06:08 SET 18:39
RISE	00:00 SET 12:28
SATURDAY, AUG. 20	
RISE	06:08 SET 18:38
RISE	00:10 SET 13:20
SUNDAY, AUG. 21	
RISE	06:08 SET 18:37
RISE	00:55 SET 14:11

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	32	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant.Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur

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THE HINDU
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10th century Kannada inscription discovered in Krishnagiri

It refers to Rashtrakuta King Krishna III

R. KRISHNA KUMAR
MYSURU

A hero stone inscription in Kannada belonging to the 10th century CE, with reference to Rashtrakuta King Krishna III, was discovered in the fields of a village in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu, recently.

The hero stone inscription was found in the fields outside the Pannapalli village in Veppanapalli taluk, Nachikuppam gram panchayat.

The hero stone inscription was found in the fields outside the Pannapalli village in Veppanapalli taluk, Nachikuppam gram panchayat.

The inscription, which is in Kannada language with characters of the 10th century CE, belongs to the period of Nolamba king Anniga who was also known as Bira Nolamba.

The discovery was made by P. Venkateshwaran, Assistant Professor of History, Government Arts College for Men, Krishnagiri, along with a few second-year MA students when they were exploring the place, recently.

Dr. Venkateshwaran said they referred the inscription to Munirathnam Reddy, Director, Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India who deciphered the Kannada inscription and described it as important as it could help deduce and add to the knowledge of political history of the region during that period.

Political history

Dr. Reddy, who confirmed the discovery and its importance, said the inscription on the hero stone seems to record land gifted by king Anniga or Bira Nolamba to one Pallaya who died in the battle with Aragella a military officer and subordinate of Rashtrakutas. The hero stone was erected by the family members of Pallaya in his commemoration.

The hero stone has a carving of a person with a large dagger in his right hand and what appears to be a bow in the left hand.

On the right hand corner of the stone the deceased is depicted as being transported to heaven by two celestial women.

Dr. Reddy said the inscription is important as one gets a hunch that the killing of Pallaya was part of a strategy of the Rashtrakutas to weaken the subordinates of the Cholas before taking them on in the famous battle of Takkolam in 949 CE.

Dr. Venkateshwaran said he has been conducting such explorations regularly since the last 15 years and it has yielded about 20 inscriptions besides megalithic burial sites and other such antiquities.

Over 300 found

"As a result of creating awareness among the public regarding the importance of preserving and studying the inscriptions, we are receiving information of newly discovered inscriptions almost on a daily basis from across the country," said Dr. Reddy. In the last one year alone, about 300 inscriptions have been discovered which will add to the knowledge base of the history of the country, he added.

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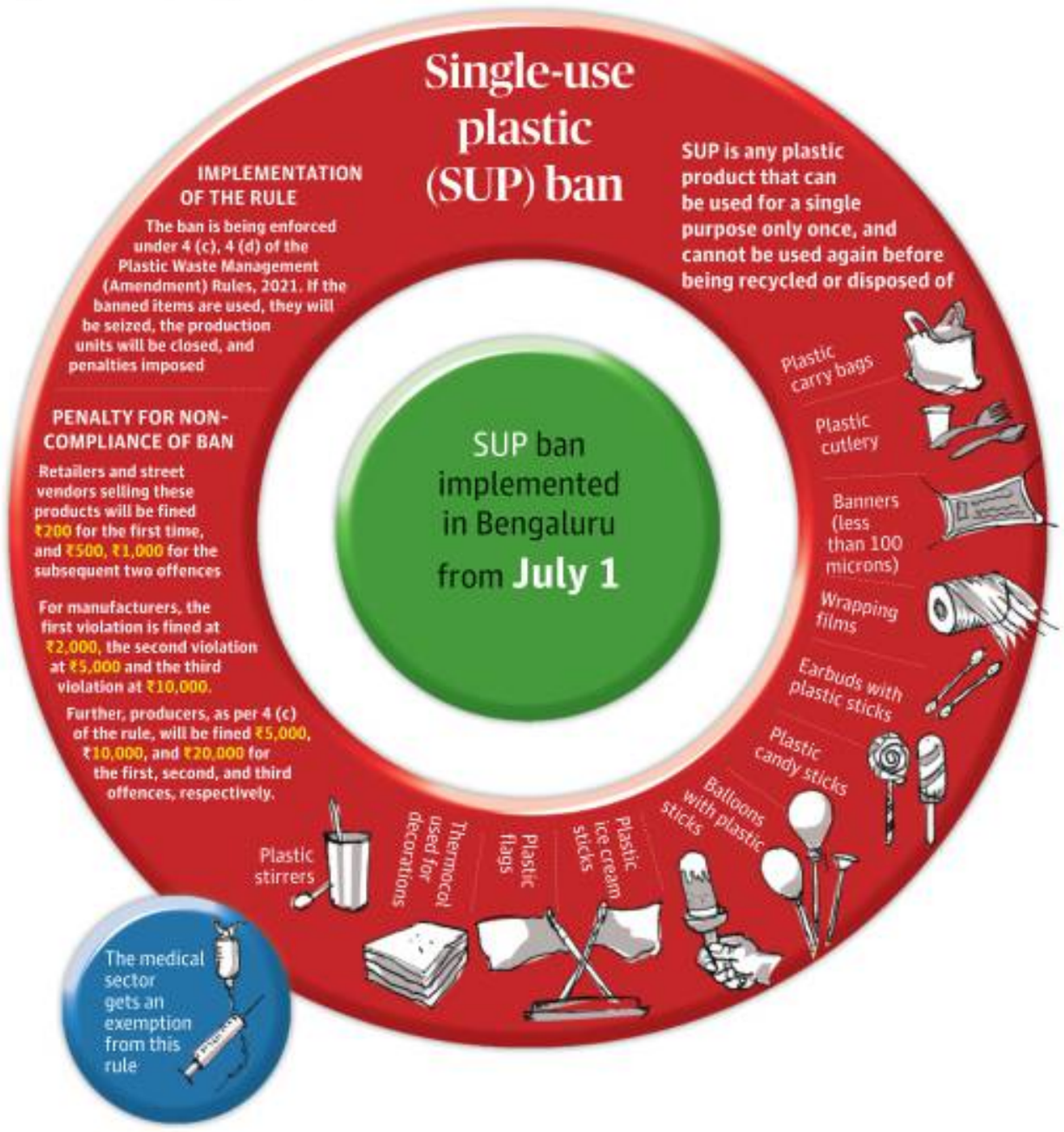
More than a month now, single-use plastic ban not so effective in Bengaluru

Despite Karnataka being the first State in the country to ban single-use plastic in 2016, the menace continues mainly because of the lack of awareness among vendors, shopkeepers and customers

Plastic covers used to protect mannequins at a showroom in Bengaluru. • FILE PHOTO



DARSHAN DEVAIAH B.P.
BENGALURU

Lathakumari (name changed), a vegetable vendor in Bommanahalli continues to use single-use plastic (SUP) covers to pack vegetables for her customers, like many years before, despite a nationwide ban on the same since July 1. Most of her customers are not aware of the ban and not ready to spend on alternatives like cloth or paper bags.

Lathakumari says that she hides the SUP covers whenever BBMP marshals come on rounds to check the use of SUP. She only gives the plastic cover for the customers who don't bring their own carry bags. "We don't want our customers to be unhappy when we say bring your own bag, hence we still give the SUP since the other alternatives like cloth bags or paper bags are costly, we cannot afford that, neither our customers," she said. So far ever since the ban of SUP, the BBMP has imposed a fine of ₹59,600 and seized 93.5 kg of plastic in eight zones of the city.

The ban was somewhat effective at larger commercial establishments in the city where the owners decided to switch to paper bags, but at the ground level, from neighbourhood vegetable vendors to grocery shops, nobody could cut down on the use of cheap and easily available plastic bags in the city.

BBMP officials say that they have been at enforcement for nearly five years. A senior BBMP official said that zonal teams are visiting commercial areas during the weekends and carrying out drives. "We have constituted teams and they have been collecting information and penalising offenders while also creating awareness in the city," officials said.

Waste segregation workers sort various plastic articles at a dumpsite in Bengaluru. • AFP

Plastic materials seized in Bengaluru between August 1 and 18

Zone	Cases	Amount	Plastic seized (in kg)
East	967	₹2,34,800	108.75
West	723	₹2,90,100	536.95
South	637	₹2,29,200	520.60
Mahadevapura	684	₹2,36,700	329.40
R.R. Nagar	26	₹1,61,200	254.00
Yelahanka	174	₹83,800	232.00
Dasarahalli	174	₹73,600	3,568.00
Bommanahalli	237	₹1,23,216.8	234.00
Total	3,863	₹14,32,616.8	5,783.70

*Data by BBMP

The ban and the fine

From plastic carry bags, cutlery, and banners, to wrapping films, several items are banned. The medical sector gets an exemption from this rule.

The implementation is taking place under Rules 4(c), 4(d) of the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021 and if the banned items are used, they will be seized and the production units will be closed with penalties. Retailers and street vendors selling these products will be fined ₹200 for the first time, and ₹500, ₹1,000 for the subsequent two offences. For manufacturers, the first violation is fined at ₹2,000, the second violation at ₹5,000 and the third violation at ₹10,000. Further, producers, as per Rule 4 (c) of the rules, will be fined ₹5,000, ₹10,000, and ₹20,000 for the first, second, and third offences, respectively.

"The use of SUP is completely banned and the BBMP is creating awareness among vendors and citizens to use reusable cloth bags and paper bags. As part of implementing the ban, the marshals are conducting surprise raids at shops, hotels, street vendors, manufacturing units and seizing the banned plastic items," Mr. Rajbir Singh said. The Central Pollution Control Board in its order dated June 30 had stated, "The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st of July, 2022."

What vendors say

Despite Karnataka being the first State in the nation to ban single-use plastic in 2016 with the Plastic Waste Management Rules, the SUP menace continues unchecked due to the lack of awareness among vendors, shopkeepers and customers. There is little awareness of the ban. K.R. Market being one of the biggest markets in Bengaluru, it alone uses large quantities of plastic bags. "I use plastic bags for packaging because it is convenient. Especially for flowers, I cannot pack them in paper or cloth bags because they are wet flowers," said P. Kumar, a flower vendor at K.R. Market.

Another vendor says the SUP is cheaper than other alternatives, "To be honest, plastic bags are cheaper than paper bags. Paper bags are ₹5 while plastic bags are ₹10. I am fine with cloth bags as well, but whichever is cheaper is what I go for," said another vendor at K.R. Market. "These bans keep coming and going from the last few years, but it's true now the BBMP is checking all of us. We spend money to buy paper bags and then after a few days, no one will care about it, even the civic body and plastic covers will continue to be used by all," said Manohar, a fruit seller in BTM Layout.

Tender coconut sellers, whose businesses primarily depend on plastic straws, think that the alternative paper straw is not working out for them at all. "Not only are they costly, they also get soggy easily," said Prasad, a seller in Bannerghatta road, adding that he does not have a choice now because of the ban, he has found an alternative but not working well. Around 253 million plastic straws are being used in Bengaluru alone every year, according to KSPCB.

Lack of awareness

Many customers are not aware of the SUP ban and continue to use it. Mr Rajbir Singh said, "The first step to preventing single-use plastic is ample awareness which includes the public getting the news of the seizing of plastic through the word of mouth, along with announcements made in market places, and railway stations usually. Another step is to check the supply through the city."

Meanwhile, a few vendors have found alternative methods to pack their products. "We use brown paper bags and handmade embroidered bags in which we pack our products", said Rauf Jan, a manufacturer and exporter of handicrafts & jewellery in Shivajinagar. Since the 2016 ban, 112 plastic units in the State have been issued Notice of Proposed Direction's (NPD) for manufacture of the banned items. Another 35 units had committed violations under Section 5 of the Act and 104 units have been issued closure direction and 35 Units (around nine in Ballari and three in Mysuru) have had criminal cases filed against them. Despite stringent measures by the KSPCB, the inflow of SUP from neighbouring States continues, said Shanth A. Thimmaiah, chairman, KSPCB.

The KPSCB has asked civic bodies across the State to take the help of self-help groups and volunteers to take up a large-scale awareness campaign regarding ban on SUP. "There is a need for preventing the production of single-use plastic itself and then, at the level of transportation and use. And, after the ban it is also the responsibility of every citizen to ensure the implementation of the order," he said.

Environmental damage

Unlike thicker and denser plastic material, SUP objects being light and flexible are less amenable to being recycled. While 99% of plastic is recycled, they constitute heavier plastics that are likely to be collected by ragpickers and plastic waste recyclers. Single-use plastics do not provide an incentive enough for the effort needed to collect them and hence they lie around, leach their toxins into the soil and cause environmental damage in both land and sea.

Thimmaiah said that SUP has been a major cause of pollution on earth, there is a need for creating extensive awareness on stopping its use. "Plastic was introduced as an alternative to depleting forest resources in 1907, but subsequently, on realising its detrimental effects, the nation in 1999 introduced the Recycled Plastic Manufacture and Usage Rules in an effort to curb plastic pollution," Mr. Thimmaiah said.

(Inputs by Vibha Rao and Shuvam Roy)

When a clear stream of reasoning awakens the change

Since ban on single-use plastic has limitations in making a difference to our environment, solution is to choose long-term products instead of single-use ones

WILMA RODRIGUES

Here is a quick question. What do we find at the intersection of nature's ingenuity and people's indifference? The unfortunate answer is a single-use-and-throw convenience products.

I can list a series of situations which uphold the truth of the above statement.

The tender coconut comes right at the top of the list. This gift from nature comes with an exquisite packaging that delivers all the goodness needed to nourish our bodies and also enrich the soil after its use. Yet, as humans, we insist that we need a plastic straw to draw on the contents. We do this without a care of what happens next and the ensuing harm that we bring on ourselves and our environment. Then again, our behaviour towards flowers and the manner in which we insist that the only way to show our love to our loved ones is to engulf our beautiful bouquet with a sheet of plastic.

False sense of hygiene

The list can go on. We believe that we should place our trust in a plastic spoon which has travelled across many miles to bring us a false sense of hygiene even while the best hygiene is there in our fingers that can consume our food in the most sustainable manner. Without a care, we thrust balloons on our children, heap them with gifts wrapped in glitzy plastic wrappers and make them believe that this is how we define happiness.

It has been over a month since the ban on single-use plastic. Straws, cutlery, ear buds are now all items that should no longer be a part of our lifestyle. It's good to see restaurants, airlines and many public events keep the protocol by switching from plastic to paper and wood.

Cloth bags at the annual Kadalekai Parishe on Bull Temple Road in Bengaluru • FILE PHOTO

GUEST COLUMN

On the other hand, the ban has had little effect on the street vendors who brings us coconut water or the small eatery that works with a slim margin and hence finds it difficult to push back on customers who feel entitled to their free plastic convenience. Single-use plastic is much cheaper than the other alternatives, including paper.

Indeed plastic is used extensively only because it is cheap to manufacture since it is produced from the by-products of other petrochemical products. But then, as consumers, we have failed to do the real number crunching. We have missed to calculate the real price that we are paying through damage to the environment and our own health as we ingest plastic fibres in the form of micro plastics. Like our water and soil, we are also contaminating our flesh and blood on account of the chemicals that leach into our solid and liquid food through the plastic containers we use.

We should at this point also understand that single-use paper products and even wood are not the best alternatives to single use plastic. Yes, these items are bio-degradable. That is about the only positive that works in their favour but there is a downside in terms of the huge material foot print in terms of raw materials that it uses. In terms of wood pulp, water and chemicals, these alternatives have an extensive footprint on the environment. Paper in fact requires four times more water in its production as compared to plastic.

Limitations of SUP ban

Under these circumstances a ban on select single-use plastic items has its limitations in terms of making a difference to our health and environment. How then do we move towards a clear stream of reasoning that will propel us to real change?

The answer is simple. We have to choose long-term instead of single-use products. Steel, glass or ceramic are materials that are inert and have long life embedded in their character. All we need to do is sit down with ourselves and bring ourselves to understand the long term benefits of moving to materials which are not single- use and throw. This will mean that we redefine convenience. We commit to carrying our own bottle, mug, and other items that we need for our joy of living. And as we sit to have this serious conversation with ourselves, we can look to be motivated by what Rabindranath Tagore said, "Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit. Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action."

There are 1.3 billion of us in India. Imagine the impact, if we could lead from the front as people from across the world learn to live a life not just without single use plastic but paper as well.

(Wilma Rodrigues is the Founder and CEO of Saahas Zero Waste)

German and Spanish chefs showcase their countries' best loved dishes in Bengaluru, tastefully debunking tropes on cuisines in popular culture

Global platters, local palate

:: RUTH DHANARAJ

World on my plate Hühnchensalat (far left) and smoked duck by the Suhrings; Mushroom croquette on truffled potato parmentier (below) by Omar Allibhoy • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Twinning with taste

Simplicity, childhood memories and family recipes are how the Suhrings wanted to represent the cuisine of their homeland. "A lot of emotion goes into preparing a dish from your childhood – memories of past mealtimes and the joy of sharing it with the people you are cooking for," says Thomas one of the Suhrings, founders of Suhring, a two-star Michelin restaurant in Thailand.

"It is an experience in itself. Plating that same dish for someone who has never tasted it before, only adds to the experience."

Thomas and his twin brother Mathias were in Bengaluru recently, hosted by Masters of Marriott Bonvoy and Culinary Culture at the Ritz-Carlton Bangalore, to present their take on traditional German fare. "There is an amazing difference when you cook with passion. We've worked in Italy and Holland, we mastered French cuisine – but there was never any sentiment because we did not grow up with it. We were cooking what we had learned. It is different with German cuisine, there's so much spirit," says Thomas.

"Most people outside Germany and even some Germans too, have this notion that our food is mainly sausages, pork knuckles and potatoes – heavy food and hearty portions. But there's so much more to it," he says.

The twins grew up on simple fare in Berlin – bread, cold cuts, currywurst and the like. "For us, childhood memories of food are not a special dish. Rather, it is about sitting together as a family at the table; sharing not just food, but also our lives."

They admit that becoming chefs was not part of their plans growing up. "We were just kids in high school with no thought for the future," says Thomas. "Our grandma had a farm where we would spend our holidays and we helped with the harvest and other chores. It was our mother who nudged us in this direction, saying, 'You've got the feel of handling food and ingredients, why not make a career of it?'"

After training with local chefs and learning the ropes, they moved out of Germany to work in Italy, Holland and other parts of Europe. Cooking their way under the tutelage of three Michelin star chefs – Sven Elverfeld, Jonnie Boer and Heinz Beck – the twins relocated to Thailand in 2008 and opened Suhring, which is couched in a living space.

"It was always our dream to open our own restaurant and offer our guests German food, with a sophisticated, modern twist."

"It was interesting for us to study German cuisine from different regions and interpret it for customers in our own way," says Mathias.

"There is an unbelievable sense of wonder when you try something and it brings back memories of childhood. We felt that way when we first made *spatzle*, a hand-cut, soft egg noodle dish from South-West Germany. We made the dough, added the pasta to the water, cooked it with mushrooms and cheese. And after we tasted it, it put a huge smile on our face. It tasted amazing and was so simple to make!"

"There is nothing complicated about it – it is comfort food, it is something anyone will understand. And it is the one dish that has been on our menu since the first day we opened our restaurant," adds Thomas.

Another childhood reinvention by the twins is of the *hanuta*, a typical breakfast waffle with chocolate filling. Thomas says they have modified it to a waffle with a filling of duck liver, served with a shot of apricot vinegar, and it has become one of their most sought after dishes.

They talk about how they present a dish from the North of Germany, called *labskaus*. "Sailors used to carry it across the sea. It was a hash of salted beef, eggs, herrings, potatoes, beetroot... pretty much everything and it was preserved for long voyages. Though it does not look too appetising, that region became famous for that dish."

The twins' version of the dish is a pastry pocket stuffed with the contents of *labskaus*, topped off with caviar.

"Globalisation is important but people should preserve their heritage for the next generation," says Thomas.

Tapas time!

His choice of career was never in doubt, says Spanish celebrity chef Omar Allibhoy of Tapas Revolution fame. "I must have been around five or six years old, but I never wanted to be an astronaut or a footballer – I always wanted to be a chef."

"Some of the earliest memories of my childhood are of my mother cooking. I remember hurrying back from playing football just so I could help her in the kitchen. Mum's peas and parsley puree was always special; I still can't make it as well as she does," he laughs.

Food has always been an intrinsic part of the Allibhoy household. "Our extended family would meet for a leisurely lunch every Sunday, with everyone bringing a dish to the table. I first learnt about Indian cuisine at these lunches where my father would prepare select dishes for us."

To make his dream a reality, Omar enrolled in culinary school at 14, and like anyone with a passion for great food he wanted to learn more about other cuisines.

He left his home town of Madrid to learn English in the United Kingdom, hoping it would get him closer to his goal of mastering different cooking styles. He was a fast learner and eventually worked under celebrity chefs such as Ferran Adria and Gordon Ramsay. However, even as he was making a name for himself in the area of haute cuisine, he realised the world's knowledge of Spanish cuisine was limited. "Spain has been a popular tourist destination with Europeans for decades, but most people only know of tortillas and churros."

Omar made it his mission to bring authentic Spanish fare to the masses by sharing recipes, appearing on television shows and writing cookbooks. His latest book, *Paella*, will be available early next year. "Only half of the book comprises recipes. The rest is a master guide on the history of this complicated dish."

Despite his life's work of decoding Spanish culinary delights, Omar has not forgotten his quest to learn more about the cuisines of other countries. He first visited India four years ago and fell in love with *kaju barfi*, *kheer*, brain curry with *roti* and of course, *biryani*. "It is similar to paella in a lot of ways – the flavouring of rice with stock, the harmony and balance of spices is exotic!"

Recently in India as a guest of All Things Nice, he says he enjoys bringing "a piece of Spain and pairing it with wines".

A bid to preserve magnificence

Bengaluru-based artist Bharati Sagar shares why her current series is such a marked departure from her usual work

:: RUTH DHANARAJ

'Try everything once' seems to be artist Bharati Sagar's motto when it comes to creating art. In a career spanning four decades, she has dabbled in various media ranging from oils and watercolours, to pottery and mixed media. Her current series, Preserving Magnificence, is also a deviation from the abstracts and human figures she is known to depict, showcasing instead the wonders of wildlife.

"Every few years or so, I try my hand at something new be it themes, styles or media. I experimented with metal dust and citric acid and found the results on paper to be quite exciting," says Bengaluru-based Bharati Sagar, adding that she designed an entire show of abstracts using this medium in 2017.

She has replicated her use of metal dust and citric acid, this time on canvas, for her current series Preserving Magnificence. "During the lockdown, animals came out of their enforced habitats and were roaming the streets. I remember thinking how they were reclaiming their own space."

Her interest piqued, Bharati began reading up on wildlife and was surprised to find out how many species were endangered. "I began working on this subject to bring about more awareness on how important each animal is to our ecology," she says, adding that she looked up Nature magazines and sites as a frame of reference for various fauna.

"Koalas and pandas are my favourites!" she says, recalling how as an Army child, when her family was stationed in Jabalpur, their home overlooked a valley and they could see deer, rabbits, snakes and birds all the time. "All those memories came back to me when I was working on this series."

Her friend, poetess Rukmini Prabhakar, has penned haikus for images from the Preserving Magnificence series. "It began when she saw some of my work on social media and was inspired to write a few lines. She has now crafted verses for almost every work in the series."

Bharati forayed into art quite early, studying Commercial Art from B.I.E.T in Mumbai via correspondence at 13, and then continuing her education at Jawaharlal Nehru Fine Arts and Architecture College, Hyderabad. At Preserving Magnificence one can also see images from *Sketches Over The Years by Bharati Sagar*, a book of sketches on perforated, handmade paper that can be framed individually. Part (10%) of the proceeds will go to the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The solo show is on display at Reves – The Art Gallery till August 25.

Oh deer! A work from artist Bharati Sagar's series • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

FRIDAYREVIEW

Fashion forward

Designer Shantnu Mehra on the launch of S&N in Bengaluru and the more accessible bridge-to-luxury segment

:: SIMRAN AHUJA

Over two decades since the brand was launched, Shantnu & Nikhil, the designers behind the eponymous brand have just launched S&N, a bridge-to-luxury label that has found its first Bengaluru home at Phoenix MarketCity. In September, another store will open at Vittal Mallya Road.

"S&N is a trickle-down effect of Shantnu & Nikhil," says one half of the designer duo Shantnu Mehra, who was in Bengaluru recently for the store's launch. Predominantly, S&N is a menswear brand with 70% of the offerings catering to men, with the remaining for womenswear and solutions through accessories, respectively.

If the mother brand is all about ceremonial wear, S&N keeps it celebratory. "There's a sense of contemporary ethnicity meeting Indo-Western influences. The celebration wear is not restricted to weddings. It could be for anything – a birthday, anniversary or board meeting," says Shantnu of the new label, which was launched in 2020 in Delhi.

Known to be famously anti-trend in their designs, the brothers adopt the same policy in the conceptualisation of S&N as a label as well. Calling the bridge-to-luxury segment uncharted territory in India, Shantnu believes that while most international brands have set a ground rule on what bridge-to-luxury is, no Indian designer has been able to touch that sweet spot till date. "It's either right at the tip of the fashion food chain with couture or it becomes too mass market. Nothing sits in the belly."

And that is exactly what S&N aims to capture. For instance, the statement shirts they retail start at ₹8,000. The prices may be watered down compared to the mother brand (price on request) but the in-store experience is not. "The Shantnu & Nikhil lineage still comes through the interiors and the gold, grey, dark hues and matte colour palette. Our sales frontrunners are more like stylists giving you solutions – what brooch will go with a shirt, footwear that works for you, which colours mix and match well, and so on."

Show and tell Models don the S&N label • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While the design ethos has stayed constant, the business side of things has seen some change. In 2019, Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail acquired a stake in Shantnu & Nikhil, aiding them with a stronger supply chain for sourcing, manufacturing and distribution. The one thing the designers were sure of in this partnership? Design before commerce. "There is no loss of creative freedom, In fact, we got the opportunity to incubate better ideas," say Shantnu.

To begin with, S&N introduces a different market segment for the brand to tap into with a direct to consumer digital channel.

The couture brand too is undergoing a revamp, where the model is becoming more hybrid, housing both S&N and the mother brand under one roof. Also on the drawing board? Hybrid stores in Dubai, London and New York.

"In Delhi or Mumbai, fashion is larger than life, but Bengaluru gives you a cool vibe," says Shantnu, explaining why they never opened their flagship couture store here before. Which is why S&N can make the right noise here. It's minimalistic, easy to wear and fashion without being fussy."

Celebrating art

Benakams Academy Of Art and Design celebrates its 27th anniversary by inaugurating its own gallery. The event will be held on August 21 at 11 am, which will be followed by an art exhibition by the students of the art school. The exhibition, which commences on the inaugural day, will continue till August 31 at the new Benakam's Art Gallery, DVG Road.
Call 9844131686 for details.

Grow your own plants

Edible Routes organises a kitchen-gardening workshop in collaboration with Bangalore Creative Circus on August 21 between 11am and 1pm. The workshop will be conducted by Kapil Mandawewala (founder and CEO of Edible Routes and Master Gardener), who will teach you to design and create your own kitchen garden in any space. *Log on to edibleroutes.com for details.*

Melodies for the evening

Banyan Tree presents its 21st musical festival - Barkha Ritu - featuring Shounak Abhisheki with Anand Bhate (vocal) and Ustad Shujaat Khan (sitar). The event will be held at Chowdiah Memorial Hall on August 21 at 6pm. *Tickets, priced at ₹ 350, are available on bookmyshow*

For a rocking time

Hard Rock Cafe Whitefield will feature Dark Light, who will pay a tribute to the English rock band, Pink Floyd, on August 20, 7pm onwards.
Formed in 2013, the Bengaluru-based five-piece band is known for its progressive music elements and ambient psychedelic soundscapes.
Tickets are priced at ₹500.

Why parties are going all out to woo Lingayats ahead of 2023 polls

BJP trying to retain their loyalty, while Congress is seeking to win them over

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

In the span of a fortnight, the ruling BJP and the principal Opposition Congress have sought to send strong signals to appease the politically strong Veerashaiava-Lingayat community. On Wednesday, the BJP nominated the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa to the party's parliamentary board and the Central Election Committee. Earlier, the former AICC president Rahul Gandhi underwent 'Linga Dharana' procedure at Murugha Mutt in Chitradurga.

BJP general secretary in charge of Karnataka Arun Singh greeting B.S. Yediyurappa on being appointed to the party's parliamentary board, in Bengaluru on Thursday, and (right) a file photo of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during his visit to Murugha Mutt in Chitradurga. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While the BJP is trying to assuage the community's feelings by inducting the sulking Lingayat strongman over a year after he stepped down as the Chief Minister, allegedly under duress, the Congress seems to be making amends over its move to support a separate Lingayat movement in 2017 that apparently did not go down well with the community ahead of the last Assembly elections.

Though a good number of the Veerashaiva-Lingayats are believed to be with the ruling BJP currently, the Congress is trying to appease the politically dominant community to wean away those "undecided voters" from the saffron party with the elections to the Legislative Assembly about eight months away. The political optics is coming in the midst of demand for inclusion of Veerashaiva-Lingayats in the central OBC list by the All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha, and the demand for 2A reservation by Panchamshalis – a powerful sub sect – that has put the BJP in a spot.

Politically, the importance of Veerashaiva-Lingayats can be gauged with as many as 58 legislators out of the 224 elected in 2018 elections being from the community, making them the largest caste-based block. Of the 58 (not taking into account subsequent bypoll results), 38 belonged to the BJP, 16 to the Congress, and four to the Janata Dal (Secular). "The community has a say in electoral politics in as many as 135 constituencies. If in North Karnataka the community is dominant where political opponents are from the same community, in South Karnataka, the community's swing will be decisive on the election results," claimed the mahasabha secretary H.M. Renukaprasanna.

The Veerashaiva-Lingayats believe that their political clout has been curtailed since the 2008 elections that were conducted after the delimitation exercise. A list compiled by the mahasabha shows that 22 constituencies that were represented by Lingayat legislators earlier were either reserved or subsumed. On average, 70 Lingayat legislators were elected in every Assembly before 2008 with the highest of 90 Lingayat legislators in 1967. The lowest number of Lingayats in the Assembly was in 2013 when an angry Mr. Yediyurappa formed the KJP to contest against the BJP, resulting in 48 Lingayat legislators being elected.

"Parties stand to gain by a Lingayat swing in reserved constituencies too because of their numbers. This is especially true in North Karnataka. In South Karnataka, where Vokkaligas are pitted against each other in at least 20 constituencies, the considerable number of votes of Lingayats become decisive. The Lingayat leadership is not about galvanising and consolidating the community where they are dominant in North Karnataka alone," a senior Lingayat leader in the Congress observed.

Interestingly, as per data collated by the mahasabha, the BJP won about 43% of the total reserved constituencies in 2018, winning 15 out of 35 constituencies reserved for the SCs and seven out of 16 reserved for the STs. In contrast, the BJP – affected by the KJP factor in 2013 – had about 16% of the total reserved seats, winning seven SC reserved constituencies and one ST reserved constituency.

The southern factor

The leader pointed out that constituencies with considerable Lingayats were in Tumakuru, Hassan, Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Ramanagaram, and Mysuru districts where such undercurrents exist but are normally not in the mainstream political narrative. "Lingayat consolidation in the South need not be in favour of the BJP that is weak in Old Mysore region or the Congress, but can go in favour of the JD(S) too, depending on the political circumstances. After the demise of M. Rajashekar Murthy and B.B. Shivappa, no Lingayat leader has emerged from the South, and the ambit of a pan-Karnataka Lingayat leadership would include Lingayats of the South," Mr. Renukaprasanna pointed out.

BJP is using Yediyurappa for its survival: M.B. Patil

'Lingayat community understands the party's political game'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

KPCC campaign committee chairman M.B. Patil on Thursday accused the BJP of using veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa for its "survival" by appointing him to its highest decision-making body, eight months ahead of the State Assembly elections.

He dared the BJP to declare Mr. Yediyurappa as its chief ministerial candidate to face the elections. The BJP on Wednesday appointed Mr. Yediyurappa to its Parliamentary Board and the Central Election Committee.

M.B. Patil

Forced to step down

Mr. Patil told reporters here that Mr. Yediyurappa was forced to step down as Chief Minister citing that he had crossed the age of 75. "If the BJP has so much love and respect for Mr. Yediyurappa, why did you make him step down as the Chief Minister?" Mr. Patil asked.

He ruled out the contention that the Lingayat strong man's induction into the BJP's top decision-making body affected Congress' prospects to attract the dominant community votes in the 2023 elections.

The Congress leader claimed that the community understands the ruling party's political game of utilising Mr. Yediyurappa's services, only for the sake of elections. Mr. Patil, who also hails from the same community, said, "What I feel is, this special love for Mr. Yediyurappa from the BJP is an attempt to give oxygen to the party for its existence in the State."

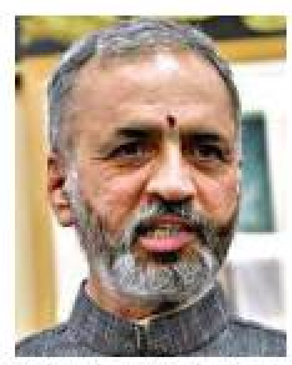
In response to a question, Mr. Patil said, "No doubt that Mr. Yediyurappa is a big leader from the community, but Lingayats are aware of the truth behind his induction."

E-Vidhan: Bureaucracy faces Speaker's ire over delay

Process of implementing it to make the Secretariat's functioning paperless was initiated in 2014

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri on Thursday took the State's bureaucracy to task for laxity in the implementation of e-Vidhan system in the Assembly Secretariat. He said the "non-cooperative mindset" of the bureaucracy was largely responsible for the delay in the execution of the system in the Lower House.



Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri

E-Vidhan, aimed at making the State legislature sessions paperless, would save a lot of public money. The process of rolling out e-Vidhan started in 2014 when a team of officials from the State visited Himachal Pradesh to study the project.

Addressing a press conference after releasing a booklet on the achievements of three years of the Assembly since he assumed office, the Speaker held the government and the bureaucratic system responsible for the delay in having a "digital legislature". Mr. Kageri said Bengaluru has been described as the Silicon Valley of India and IT capital of India in global forums. "But it is a shame on the part of us to say that we still do not have the e-Vidhan system," Mr. Kageri said.

Talks held

The Speaker said he had held talks with Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma and earlier several rounds of meetings were held with senior officials of the Finance Department, including the Additional Chief Secretary of Finance. But the bureaucracy has been moving at a slow pace, Mr. Kageri claimed.

"I wish and hope that the bureaucracy undergoes a transformation in its mindset. We need a responsible bureaucracy. The bureaucracy had shown laxity in the implementation of a decision taken at a Cabinet meeting," Mr. Kageri said. Several States have already implemented the e-system in the legislature, he said.

On several legislators skipping the legislature session, Mr. Kageri said the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the ruling party should take responsibility in ensuring the presence of MLAs during the session.

Kageri, Horatti to take part in Commonwealth Parliamentary meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri will attend the 65th annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) hosted by the CPA Canada Region in Halifax, Canada, from August 20 to 26.

Mr. Kageri would leave for Canada on August 19 along with senior BJP MLC Basavaraj Horatti. Mr. Horatti submitted an application to attend the conference as the Chairman of the Council. Since he demitted the office now, Mr. Horatti would attend the conference as an observer, Mr. Kageri said.

The annual flagship event will bring together parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and decision-makers from 68 countries across the Commonwealth to address the critical issues facing today's parliaments.

After attending the conference, Mr. Kageri and Mr. Horatti would undertake a study tour in France and the United Kingdom. Both would return to Karnataka on September 4.

Mr. Kageri said the legislature session would be held in September to meet the six-month constitutional requirement. The budget session of the State legislature ended in March. The government would fix the dates for holding the legislature session in September, Mr. Kageri said.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (August 19, Friday), the following explainers are available:

- **In the limelight** Streaming fantasy: Ever evolving, forever frozen bit.ly/dragonsgot
- **Explained** The controversy around parking spaces bit.ly/parkingrow
- **Explained** The recent blocking of the VLC Media Player bit.ly/vlcblock

Online exclusives:

- **Sci-Five** | The Hindu Science Quiz bit.ly/scifiveani
- **Watch** | Why was Salman Rushdie attacked? bit.ly/RushdieAttack
- **Watch** | In conversation with Karan Johar bit.ly/WatchKaran
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

Despite heavy rain, hydel storage is lower than last year

B.S. SATISH KUMAR
BENGALURU

Though it rained heavily in the catchment areas resulting in huge inflows to the three major hydel reservoirs of Karnataka, their total storage is lower by 3.7 percentage points when compared with the corresponding period in the previous year.

A file photo of Linganamakki reservoir.

- Linganamakki has storage of 86.92%
- Mani's storage is 64.02%
- Supa has 59.17% storage
- Total storage in the three major hydel reservoirs 74.27% of their full capacity

The total storage in the three major hydel reservoirs of Linganamakki, Mani, and Supa was 74.27% of their full capacity at 8 a.m. on August 18 as against 77.97% on the same day last year.

Linganamakki has storage of 86.92% now as against the previous year's level of 84.84% and Mani's storage is 64.02% as against 52.06% in the previous year. However, Supa has 59.17% storage as against 74.23% in the last year. In terms of energy that could be generated from the present storage, it is possible to generate 6,453 million units of energy from the cumulative storage from all the three major hydel reservoirs as against 6,774 million units in the previous year.

The reservoirs are receiving copious inflows now, much higher than those received during the corresponding period last year. Yet, the storage has remained lower when compared with that of the previous year in Supa. In fact, the storage in Linganamakki too was lower compared with the previous year's position till about a week. However, the recent good rain helped increase the storage position substantially.

Officials of the Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL) which manages these reservoirs attributed this to lower storage in these reservoirs during the beginning of this water year in June. They pointed out that more quantum of water from these reservoirs had been drawn to cater to the increasing demand for power during the summer months this year. This resulted in these reservoirs beginning the water year with a nominal storage level.

The three reservoirs had cumulative storage of a mere 12.95% by the end of June as against 38.59% during the corresponding period of the previous year, they pointed out.

Another factor, according to them, is the low rainfall during this June when compared with the last year. In fact, the storage level started improving rapidly only from July when the State started receiving heavy rainfall. However, officials said the present storage too is healthy and that it is expected to match the previous year's level if the rain continues in the catchment areas for some more time.

Man stabbed to death

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The police are on the lookout for Haneef, 27, who stabbed his neighbour to death over a trivial row on Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Azeemullah Khan, a resident of Hegganahalli. The accused is an unemployed and alcoholic, the police said.

HAL to open office in Kuala Lumpur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited will set up an office in Kuala Lumpur to tap business opportunities in Malaysia and the entire Southeast Asian region, the PSU said in a statement on Thursday.

The new office is expected to help the public sector firm to explore business around Fighter Lead-in Trainer (FLIT) LCA and other requirements of Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) like Su-30 MKM and Hawk upgrades, as per HAL "It will reinforce the commitment of India in supporting the Malaysian Defence Forces and industry for sustainable aerospace and defence landscape in Malaysia," said a company communique.

According to HAL, the company had submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Defence, Malaysia, in October 2021 for the supply of 18 FLIT LCAs against a global tender issued by the RMAF.

The final winner of the tender is expected to be declared soon by Malaysian authorities.

Higher Education Minister warns against not implementing UUCMS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan has warned that stringent action will be taken against the registrars of public universities if they make excuses for not implementing the Unified University and College Management system (UUCMS). He said that registrars concerned will be relieved from their duties for non-implementing the system.

After convening a meeting with the Vice-Chancellors of all the public universities at the Vikasa Soudha on Thursday, he said the VCs should submit a report regarding the registrars who have failed to implement the UUCMS.

UUCMS, a technology-based platform, will allow universities to function efficiently with lesser human resources and limited expenses. This is the solution for the day. Therefore no one should make excuses about non-implementation, he said.

To know the glitches in implementing the UUCMS, videoconferencing was being done regularly, the Minister said.

Department of Women and Child Development

A.V.K. Complex, 2nd Floor, Busalakunte, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar Dist.
Phone: 08159-200181 e-Mail: mulbagalcdpo@gmail.com
No: CDPO:MUL/Egg.Tender/2022-23 Date: 11.08.2022

E-Tender Corrigendum Order Announcement

Sub:- Related Announcement of Chicken Egg Modification order.

Ref: (1) No. CDPO/MUL/EGG/E-Tender/22-23, Dtd: 20.07.2022. (2) H.O. Order No: DWCD/ICD/Egg/1/2021-E597342, Dtd: 04.08.2022.

As related to the above matter, chicken egg E-tender will be published for the year 2022-23 as per reference No. 1 as per Reference No.2 Head Office Guidelines in Sl.No.03 the tender should be a NECC or Karnataka Co-operative poultry Federation, registered poultry Farmer without third party involvement as mentioned in the guidelines for the modification in the tender document, copy of said head office in e-tender publication for information of contractor's was uploaded in e-tender portal website as **eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further information you may contact the above address during the office hour's.

Sd/-
Child Development Project Officer,
Mulbagal.

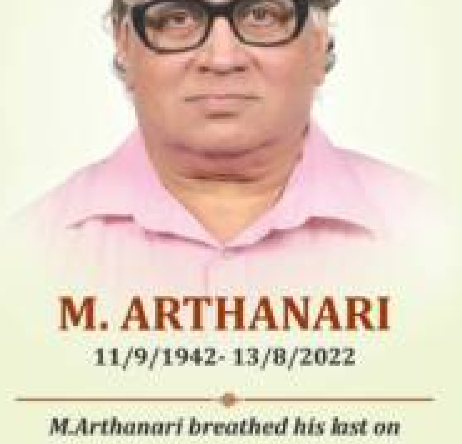
ಮಾಸಸಂ/ಕೋಲಾರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ256/ಐ.ಸಿ.ಇ/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



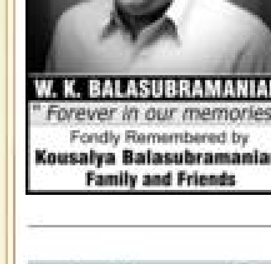
M. ARTHANARI
11/9/1942- 13/8/2022

M.Arthanari breathed his last on August 13th, 2022 in the UK after a brief illness. He will be deeply mourned by his family, friends and relatives

Tel No: 9444879002, 9444450794

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

13th ANNIVERSARY



W. K. BALASUBRAMANIAM
" Forever in our memories "
Fondly Remembered by
Kousalya Balasubramaniam
Family and Friends

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IN BRIEF

Water level in Godavari recedes

BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

Although rains have abated in parts of the upper reaches of the Godavari on Thursday, several stretches of the main roads passing through the Bhadrachalam Agency remained submerged, affecting vehicular traffic on the inter-State routes in the border mandals. The Godavari showed signs of receding at Bhadrachalam with the water level slightly decreasing just below the danger mark of 53 feet on Thursday evening.

Students hurt on their way to watch *Gandhi*

HYDERABAD

Students and a teacher of a private school who went to watch the movie *Gandhi* were injured on an escalator in a multiplex in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Out of 12 students admitted in the Apollo Hospitals, four students were being stabilised. Eight students and the teacher, who sustained superficial injuries, were discharged. The police said that no case was booked.

Ganja worth ₹4 lakh seized in A.P.; 3 arrested

RAYACHOTI

The police on Thursday arrested three persons near the agriculture market yard at Neerugattuvaripalle in Madanapalle municipality of Andhra Pradesh for selling ganja, and seized 5 kg of the contraband, worth about ₹4 lakh, and an autorickshaw from their possession.

The accused were identified as Shaik Hussain, 46, Avula Raghu, 30, and Mahesh, 25, — all belonging to Madanapalle. The trio was booked under the NDPS Act 1985 and sent for remand.

Inspect medical facilities given to Kerala endosulfan victims: SC

Court directs Kasargod District Legal Services Authority to file report in 6 weeks

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Kasargod District Legal Services Authority in Kerala to inspect the medical and palliative care facilities provided to endosulfan victims.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud ordered the legal services authority to submit its report in six weeks.

The order came after victims, represented by senior advocate P.N. Raveendran and advocate Sudheer, complained of the lack of health care infrastructure provided by the State despite the best efforts of the district administration.

"The efforts have to be made at the highest levels in the State government," Mr. Raveendran submitted.

The Bench directed the legal services authority team to examine the facilities provided for healthcare, palliative and physiotherapy in the district, which became the focal point of insecticide contamination affecting hundreds of families. The court asked the legal services authority delegation to visit district hospitals, community and primary health centres to get a thorough and objective assessment of the ground situation.

Sorry state: A file photo of endosulfan victims staging a protest in Thiruvananthapuram.

The State government has recently filed an affidavit informing the apex court about the disbursal of compensation to 98% of the victims.

Advocate Nishe Rajen Shonker, for Kerala, said the ₹5 lakh compensation has reached almost all of the over 3,700 victims.

The State had countered that it has made the necessary medical facilities available to victims.

In May, the apex court slammed the Kerala government for doing "virtually nothing" for endosulfan pesticide exposure victims.

The court had said the State's inaction was "appalling" and amounted to a breach of the apex court's judgment in 2017, which had ordered the State to pay ₹5 lakh each to the victims in three months.

Of the 3,704 victims, 102 are bedridden, 326 are mentally challenged, 201 are physically disabled, 119 are wrecked by cancer while 2,966 others fall in the residual category.

"The right to health is an integral part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. Without health, the faculties of living have little meaning," the court had noted in the case.

NIA chargesheets 4 suspects in terror case

Investigation revealed that they were in touch with IS handlers

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday chargesheeted four suspects on charges of recruiting cadre for the "Khilafah Party of India" and other outfits floated on the lines of proscribed terrorist organisations such as the IS, al-Qaeda and National Thowheed Jamaat of Sri Lanka.

The case pertains to an alleged conspiracy by five suspects for threatening people and police officials and also attempting to murder police personnel during a vehicle check on February 21, 2022 in Mayiladuthurai.

They were also allegedly involved in spreading hatred and conspired for the secession of a part of India and to disrupt the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country by forming outfits such as "Khilafah Party of India", "Khilafah Front of India", "Intellectual Students of India".

Secret meetings

The suspects allegedly associated themselves with the proscribed terrorist organisations, including IS/Daesh, al-Qaeda and National Thowheed Jamaat of Sri Lanka.

The NIA, which took over the investigation from the Tamil Nadu Police, said probe had revealed that the accused persons chargesheeted in the case held secret meetings in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram and Chennai's Mannadi to pursue their conspiracy and recruit members for the outfits.

During searches incriminating material was recovered which revealed that the suspects were in contact with IS handlers and used images, messages, magazines, videos pertaining to the banned organisations to indoctrinate and radicalise gullible youth.

The Delhi unit of the NIA, which investigated the case, filed the chargesheet in a special court here against Sathil Batcjs alias Sathik Batcha Thuraabi, R. Ashiq alias Mohammed Ashiq Elahi, A. Mohamed Irfan and Rahamathulla alias Rahamath U. under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Arms Act, 1959, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.

Kannur varsity syndicate to approach HC

STAFF REPORTER
KANNUR

The Kannur University Syndicate has decided to approach the Kerala High Court on Friday against Governor Arif Mohammed Khan's decision to freeze the appointment of Priya Varghese, wife of Chief Minister's private secretary K.K. Ragesh, as Associate Professor in the university's Malayalam department.

In an emergency syndicate meeting on Thursday, it was decided not to yield to the Governor, who is also Chancellor of the university.

Vice-Chancellor Gopinath Ravindran has received legal advice that the Governor's stay order is not legally valid. The Governor issued the order on Wednesday without issuing a showcause notice to the V-C.

According to the Kannur University rules, the Governor has no power to cancel the Syndicate decision, the meeting said.

The Governor's action is under Section 7(3) of the Kannur University Regulations, 1996. The Governor froze the notification issued by Kannur University on July 27, giving the first rank to Priya Varghese as Associate Professor of Malayalam. The action was taken following a complaint by the Save University Campaign Committee that Ms. Varghese did not have eight years of teaching experience as required by the University Grants Commission.

The Chancellor also considered the Right to Information Act reply stating that Ms. Varghese, who had the lowest research score among the interviewees, was given the first rank in the interview.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Tripura, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and east Madhya Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Bihar, Telangana, Vidarbha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	7	35.7	27.3	Kozhikode	–	32.0	25.2
Ahmedabad	2	32.2	24.8	Kurnool	–	34.5	25.7
Aizawl	0.3	31.2	19.8	Lucknow	–	35.4	27.3
Allahabad	–	34.4	27.2	Madurai	–	38.0	25.0
Bengaluru	–	30.0	21.4	Mangaluru	7.6	29.5	23.3
Bhopal	1	29.8	25.0	Mumbai	12	30.3	24.6
Bhubaneswar	–	32.7	25.7	Mysuru	–	32.2	20.0
Chandigarh	–	35.3	25.8	New Delhi	–	35.3	24.6
Chennai	31	36.1	21.4	Patna	2	36.0	27.6
Coimbatore	–	33.3	23.6	Port Blair	13	30.3	24.8
Dehradun	–	33.4	25.2	Puducherry	1.8	36.2	24.0
Gangtok	22.2	25.6	18.7	Pune	3	30.6	20.7
Goa	4	30.0	24.0	Raipur	–	33.5	26.4
Guwahati	–	37.2	27.4	Ranchi	–	32.0	23.7
Hubballi	–	28.0	21.0	Shillong	2	27.5	18.4
Hyderabad	–	32.8	23.0	Shimla	2	25.6	19.8
Imphal	–	26.6	22.7	Srinagar	–	29.8	19.6
Jaipur	0.4	31.6	24.0	Thiruvananthapuram	–	32.1	24.2
Kochi	0.2	30.0	25.4	Tiruchi	4	36.3	23.0
Kohima	1	27.6	18.0	Vijayawada	10	33.8	24.2
Kolkata	–	35.5	29.4	Visakhapatnam	–	32.8	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	45	22	.50	47	91	
Bengaluru	7	24	.50	40	106	
Chennai	40	39	.36	36	64	
Delhi	24	61	.76	39	144	
Hyderabad	36	24	103	44	77	
Kolkata	7	16	.25	85	108	
Lucknow	5	11	.62	29	53	
Mumbai	6	9	.98	29	33	
Pune	–	43	104	–	–	–
Visakhapatnam	9	40	.35	74	110	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Purnia, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 179 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Spurious milk inflow on the rise in Kerala

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA
PALAKKAD

The inflow of adulterated milk from Tamil Nadu into Kerala has increased especially in view of the upcoming Onam celebrations. Several lakhs of litres of milk reach Kerala every day from the neighbouring State.

The Dairy Development department on Thursday caught a tanker carrying 12,750 litres of urea-mixed milk at the Meenakshipuram check-post.

The presence of a high amount of urea was detected during a routine testing done at the Dairy Development department laboratory at Meenakshipuram.

"We did the test thrice to confirm and we were surprised to find a high amount of urea in the milk," said Dairy Development Officer Abhin C.M. The tanker that came from Krishnagiri was carrying the milk to Thrissur. It was handed over to the Food Safety department for further action. The Food Safety department has reportedly sent the tanker back to Tamil Nadu after collecting samples for examination.

To 'strengthen' milk

It is suspected that urea was added for increasing the solids-not-fat (SNF) content of the milk. It is learned that some milk producers would add chemicals, including urea, to a tolerable level to strengthen the milk.It is learned that milk from Tamil Nadu is largely being brought for use in Palakkad, Thrissur, Malappuram, Kochi, and Alappuzha.

Even if the department detects adulterated milk, it does not have the authority to act against the culprits. It can only hand over the milk to the Food Safety department.

Kerala HC may take note of 'provocative dressing' order

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

With complaints pouring in from different parts of Kerala against the Kozhikode Sessions Court's remarks of provocative dressing by the survivor in a sexual attack case, the Kerala High Court may take up the matter shortly.

The High Court has the judicial powers to take up the matter without waiting for the survivor or the prosecution to bring it up before the court, considering the unprecedented public response and the violation of the legal principles in the order.

The matter shall be decided by the Kerala High Court on the judicial side, considering the fact that the order was passed by a trial court during its business of delivering the judicial order, legal sources indicate.

Incidentally, the sessions judge had noted that the survivor was wearing a "sexually provocative dress", while granting anticipatory bail to writer Civic Chandran in a case booked for outraging the modesty of a woman.

However, the legal sources ruled out the possibility of any action against the judge for the uncharitable observations in the order. Though legally erroneous in nature, the controversial order has been authored by the judge while discharging his official duties.

No disciplinary action can be taken against a judge for an erroneous order issued in his capacity as presiding officer of a court who considered the matter that came up before him. All that could be done in this case is to challenge the order at a higher court, which is the Kerala High Court in this case, the sources said.

Meanwhile, several organisations have come out against the observations.

Ceremonial parade

Palliyodams (snakeboats) reaching Aranmula in Kerala to take part in the Aranmula Vallasadya on Thursday. A parade of the snakeboats was held in the Pampa as a prelude to the annual mega feast organised at Sree Parthasarathy temple. • LEJU KAMAL

Kidnapped boy rescued, six arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

The police rescued a 14-year-old boy and arrested his abductors in Sankeshwar Town in Belagavi district on Thursday.

Bhaskar Prakash Kade, who was going home from his tuition classes, was kidnapped by a gang of six persons.

The accused lied to the boy that his father had met with an accident and was admitted in a hospital in Nippani. Then, they called the boy's father for ransom.

However, the police traced and rescued the boy in an hour the same day.

A team was formed to identity and arrest the accused. The team worked hard and arrested the accused on August 18, Superintendent of Police Sanjiv Patil said.

Three motorcycles and six mobile phones were seized from the accused.

The Superintendent of Police has congratulated the team of policemen involved in the rescue operation.

Four accused in oocyte sale case detained under Goondas Act

Provisions of Act invoked based on recommendations of SP

STAFF REPORTER
ERODE

Four persons involved in the oocyte sale case were detained under the Goondas Act here on Thursday.

Based on recommendations of the Superintendent of Police V. Sasimohan, Collector H. Krishnanunni invoked provisions of the Act against the 16-year-old girl's mother, the mother's companion, a woman intermediary and the 40-year-old man who prepared the fake Aadhaar card in the case.

Currently, the two women are lodged at the Coimbatore Central Prison for Women. The mother's companion and the 40-year-old man, who were lodged in a prison at Gobichettipalayam and the sub-jail in Erode, were moved to the Coimbatore Central Prison after serving the detention orders.

The Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services had held inquiries after which four private hospitals, involved in receiving oocytes, in Erode, Perundurai, Salem and Krishnagiri, were closed

Based on the girl's complaint to the Erode South police in June 2022, the police registered a case under Sections 5(l), (m), (n) r/w 6, 16 r/w 17 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012; Section 420, 464, 41, 506 (ii) of IPC and Section 34 and 35 of The Aadhaar (Targeted) Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies Benefits and Services Act, 2016, and arrested the four persons.

The Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services had held inquiries after which four private hospitals, involved in receiving oocytes, in Erode, Perundurai, Salem and Krishnagiri, were closed recently.

Police nab Customs officer for helping gold smugglers

Official arrested during meeting with 2 men outside airport

STAFF REPORTER
MALAPPURAM

The police nabbed a Customs superintendent at the Calicut international airport at Karipur while handing over smuggled-in gold to two passengers outside the airport on Thursday.

The police team supervised by District Police Chief S. Sujit Das was aghast as a senior Customs officer fell in their net.

The police team nabbed superintendent Muniappan P. by cleverly following two passengers who smuggled in 640 grams of gold from Dubai.

K.H. Abdul Naseer, 46, and K.J. Shamseer, 20, two brothers from Kasaragod, reached Karipur from Dubai on Air India Express flight X 358 on Thursday morning. Mr. Muniappan, who was on duty at that time, found 640 grams of gold hidden in their luggage.

But he struck a deal with the siblings and accounted only 320 grams of gold and issued notice for compounding of duty. He assured them that he would bring the remaining 320 grams out of the airport and hand it over to them if they pay him ₹25,000.

He gave them his number and told them to call him and meet him after his duty shift at his living quarters. However, the police followed the passengers on the basis of a tip-off. The police caught the passengers and the Customs superintendent when they met at Mr. Muniappan's quarters.

The police recovered 320 grams of gold from Mr. Muniappan, and ₹4.43 lakh in unaccounted money from his quarters. The police also recovered 500 UAE dirham, many expensive watches and four Indian passports from him.

The police said Mr. Muniappan would seize the smuggler's passport and hand it back to the him/her only when he is given the money he demands.

Dharwad college principal held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

Investigating the case of sexual harassment in a PU college, the Dharwad Police have arrested the principal of the college.

The police said that the principal of Vishweshwaraiah PU Science College, Dharwad, Mahadev Kuravattigoudar, who was taken into custody for questioning, was arrested and produced before a court which remanded him in judicial custody till August 30.

Too good to be true

India should stick to the plan to better the lives of the Rohingya until their return home

The announcement on social media by Urban Development Minister Hardeep Puri, of the Modi government's decision to house about 1,100 Rohingya migrants now living in makeshift slums, in flats with amenities instead, proved "too good to be true". Within hours, Mr. Puri was countered by the Home Minister's Office, which denied any such intention, instead terming them "illegal foreigners". It said the plan was to keep them sequestered in their present homes, which would be designated as detention centres while the Government continued efforts to deport them to Myanmar. The announcement itself was puzzling. Mr. Puri is a senior Minister and an experienced diplomat, and his statement was unequivocal. Not only did he say that the plan was to move the migrants from squalor to apartments built for the Economically Weaker Sections on the outskirts of Delhi, but that they would also be provided facilities and protection by the Delhi police – proof of how India had always welcomed refugees. The details Mr. Puri shared, as well as documents from 2021, showed that the Government had indeed been considering moving the Rohingya, who live on land donated by an Islamic charity, after their previous homes were burnt down. There has been some suggestion that the ruling party faced backlash from its supporters, including a stern press statement from the Vishva Hindu Parishad, and it would be unfortunate if that was the principle behind what appears to be a reversal of policy.

On broader terms, the Rohingya housing issue seems to be an example of the clash between the Modi government's foreign policy commitments and its domestic politics. Although, as Mr. Puri tweeted, India has "respected and followed" the 1951 UN convention of refugees – it is not a signatory – Mr. Modi's colleagues such as Home Minister Amit Shah have frequently disregarded the conventions: referring to migrants as "termites", stating in Parliament that India would "never accept" the Rohingya, and even violating the UN principle of non-refoulement by deporting a Rohingya woman to Myanmar this year. The treatment of the Rohingya, who fled to India in 2012 and 2017 after state-sponsored ethnic cleansing, has also been far from the Government's much touted slogan of "*vasudhaiva kutumbakam*". The Rohingya have been driven out of homes in Rajasthan and Haryana, stigmatised by local authorities and intelligence agencies who accuse them of criminal and even terrorist intent. New Delhi has also failed thus far to play its role as a "Regional leader" in convincing Myanmar to provide its citizens homes and assurances of safety, or in brokering dialogue between Dhaka and Naypyidaw to ensure their return; about a million Rohingya live in Bangladesh, and an estimated 40,000 in India (Pakistan and Saudi Arabia house about 7,00,000 between them). In the absence of long-term measures to resolve the issue, the Government could at least, as Mr. Puri suggested, provide the hapless community better living conditions, until their future is secured.

A forced union

Its factions yoked together by judicial diktat, the AIADMK's affairs are caught in a deadlock

The Madras High Court has restored 'dual leadership' in the AIADMK in an order that amounts to forcing the party's recently elected 'interim general secretary', Edappadi K. Palaniswami, to work jointly with O. Panneerselvam, who was 'expelled' at a general council meeting on July 11. On the face of it, the order of Justice G. Jayachandran, declaring the July 11 meeting void, because it was not convened by one authorised to do so, seems to be an impractical measure. The court has ordered restoration of *status quo ante* as on June 23, the day an earlier general council meeting was held without any decision on the leadership question. This pushes the party into a deadlock. The order says categorically that there shall be no general council or executive committee meeting without the joint consent of the Coordinator (Mr. Panneerselvam) and the Joint Coordinator (Mr. Palaniswami). It also says there will be no impediment in their convening a general council meeting jointly and deciding on its affairs, including the issue of restoring 'single leadership'. Such a scenario does not look likely as Mr. Panneerselvam may not allow the issue to be taken up. The outcome is a setback to Mr. Palaniswami, who may have thought he has taken full control with the support of an overwhelming majority among general council members. It is a major boost for Mr. Panneerselvam as he gets back his shared leadership after he was unseated and expelled.

The court's order is based on three grounds: that the July 11 meeting could not have been called by the acting presidium chairman, when the party rules say only the two coordinators can do so; that it was done without giving 15 days' advance notice, and the claim that the post of coordinators had lapsed after June 23 was without any basis. However, a moot question is whether a party can be run with two leaders who have fallen out and hold a *de facto* veto power over each other's decisions. At one point, the court seems to question the general council's power to make decisions based on majority when it asks how a party with 1.50 crore members can suddenly seek a change in dispensation with just 2,500 general council members; and says whether these 2,500 people truly reflect the views of all primary members is something to be examined. The implications of this observation are not wholly clear, but it may be used to stall or reject any decision made in this forum. As the litigation deepens the AIADMK's internal crisis, Mr. Palaniswami has filed an appeal in the High Court. A question that arises is whether warring factions, especially when one of them is clearly dominant, can be yoked together by judicial diktat.

Hard truths about India's labour reforms

The paradigm driving employment and labour policies needs to change for better-quality livelihoods, now and ahead

ARUN MAIRA

Independent India was born at the midnight hour on August 15, 1947, 75 years ago, when India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru unfurled the country's tricolour flag and announced to Parliament that India had made a "tryst with destiny". India had won its independence after a long, remarkably peaceful struggle for freedom, led by Mahatma Gandhi.

Gandhi had a vision of a country not divided into fragments by religious and communal walls. He envisioned a country in which all Indians, whether rich or poor, would hold their heads high in dignity. India's "tryst with destiny" was to provide "*poorna swaraj*" (i.e., full freedom) to all its citizens: political freedom, social freedom, and economic freedom.

The country's faultlines

The country's democratic Constitution created the world's largest democracy. Sadly, 75 years later, political liberties and freedoms of speech are being curbed in India. Social equality amongst castes has not been achieved. Lower caste citizens continue to live in great indignity. Lower caste poor women live in abject poverty in India's villages. They are among the most oppressed humans on the planet.

While the numbers of Indian billionaires increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of millions of Indians lost their incomes when the country locked down during the pandemic. They struggled to find shelter, food, and even drinking water for their families.

India's gravest socio-economic problem is the difficulty a vast majority of citizens have in earning good livelihoods. Their problem is not just employment. It is the poor quality of employment: insufficient and uncertain incomes, and poor working conditions, wherever they are employed – in factories, farms, service establishments, or homes.

The dominant 'theory-in-use' to increase employment is to improve the ease of doing business, with the expectation that investments in businesses will improve citizens' ease of earning good livelihoods. In this theory, large and formal enterprises create good jobs, and labour laws must be 'flexible" to attract investments. Investors say the laws protect labour too much. Reforms were begun by the United Progressive Alliance government. Their principal thrust was to improve administration by simplifying procedures and digitisation. Those improvements were appreciated by employers as well as workers. However, they did not make the labour laws more employer friendly. Therefore, the National Democratic Alliance government became bolder in 2014 and moved to reform the content of the laws.

Impact of reforms

The Government designed a framework for reforms and, since labour is a concurrent subject, it encouraged States to implement changes. First off the blocks was Rajasthan. Other States followed. Economic reforms are a process of learning. The V.V. Giri National Labour Institute's interim report, "Impact Assessment Study of the Labour Reforms undertaken by the States", provides insights into the impacts of the reforms so far. Labour laws cover many subjects – payment of wages, safety conditions, social security, terms of employment, and dispute resolution. The proposed national reforms the Government is gearing up to make shortly are the conversion of

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all these laws into four codes. The report has focused on the reform of the Industrial Disputes Act, which is to raise the limits of applicability of laws relating to terms of service and modes of dispute resolution (roles of unions) to 300 people.

The report spans the period 2004-05 to 2018-19. It focuses on six States which have implemented reforms: Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh. The report reminds readers that labour laws are only one factor affecting business investment decisions. Investors do not go out to hire people just because it has become easy to fire them. An enterprise must have a growing market for its products, and many things must be put together to produce for the market – capital, machinery, materials, land, etc. not just labour. Therefore, it must be worthwhile to employ more people before firing them.

What is clear

Reading through the report, one conclusion is unmistakable. Reforms of labour laws have had little effect on increasing employment in large enterprises. The report says that the effects of labour reforms cannot be revealed immediately: they will take time. Therefore, it is telling that Rajasthan, the first State to implement the reforms, seems to have benefited the least from them.

The overall story is hardly better. The share of employment in plants employing more than 300 people increased from 51.1% to 55.3% between 2010-11 to 2014-15 (the period when the emphasis was on administrative reforms), and then increased less, from 55.3% to 56.3%, in 2017-18, when some States made the bolder reforms favourable for employers. Though overall employment is affected by many factors, the bolder reforms post 2014 were designed to promote larger factories.

This hardly happened because labour reforms that increase the threshold of application of the Industrial Disputes Act are conceptually flawed. They cannot induce creation of large enterprises to whom the laws will continue to apply. In fact, the report says, employment in formal enterprises is becoming more informal. Large investors can afford to use more capital and are also employing increasing numbers of people on short-term contracts, while perversely demanding more flexibility in laws.

The report defines "formal" employment as the grant of paid leave, a written contract, and some "social security". An enterprise should not have to employ more than 300 people before it provides these benefits. Along with the right to be heard and dignity at work, these are the minimal "essentials" all employers must provide to all those who work for them, whether in small enterprises or domestic help. Increasing the threshold of the laws dilutes the rights of association and representation of workers in small enterprises.

The question the report leaves unanswered is whether the reforms have benefited workers. After all, the primary purpose of labour laws is to protect the rights of workers, not promote the interests of investors. Surely, the benefits of reforms should be assessed from workers' perspectives too. It is sad that the report includes a long chapter on the views of employer associations about the benefits of the reforms, and nothing about the views of employees and unions. The employers' associations say the reforms have been beneficial. The question is, beneficial for whom?

A widening gap

Rising above the analysis of numbers and trends of employment in the report to see the big picture again, the conclusion is clear. The gap between where our economy is and where it needs to be is increasing. As seen in the article by Praveen Chakravarty, "Whose GDP is it anyway?" (*The Hindu*, July 27, 2022), between 1980 and 1990, every 1% of GDP growth generated roughly two lakh new jobs; between 1990 to 2000, it decreased to one lakh jobs per per cent growth; and from 2000 to 2010, it fell to half a lakh only. Fundamental reforms are required in the theory of economic growth: more GDP does not automatically produce more incomes at the bottom. And the paradigm driving employment and labour policies must also change to enable the generation of better-quality livelihoods for Indian citizens, now and in the future.

To achieve this, fundamental reform is required in the ways policies are made. If the benefit of reforms is supposed to be the improvement of ease of earning better livelihoods for all citizens and with more dignity, whether they are farmers, factory workers, or service employees, should they not be listened to most of all, within their enterprises, and in the process of shaping policies?

Arun Maira is a former Member, Planning Commission, and the author of 'Transforming Capitalism: Improving the World for Everyone'

Salman Rushdie, the 'intifada of the imagination'

The acts of cowardice by fanatics such as Hadi Matar only keep the risks and promises of literature alive

MANASH FIRAQ BHATTACHARJEE

The Indian-born master of literature, the 75-year-old Salman Rushdie, was severely wounded in a knife attack on August 12 at the Chautauqua Institution (western New York State). His attacker was a 24-year-old Shiite Lebanese living in America, Hadi Matar. The young man is said to be sympathetic to the Iranian state and its *fatwa* declared against Rushdie 33 years ago, after the publication of *The Satanic Verses*.

Raising questions

We do not know if Matar has any interest in literature, but we know he has an interest in religion. For a devout man, religion surely matters over literature. Secular literature – a term we can safely use for a lot of writing since the advent of western modernity – has no responsibility towards divine injunctions. It is a literature born in, and nurtured by, human will and imagination. In other words, secular literature is an idea of writing that is free from the stranglehold of religious sentiments. It thrives not just by questioning religion, but also modernist values: literature is ideally a form of free expression where all forms of dogma, including dogmas of modern ideologies and values, are under question. The modern task of literature is to raise questions against everything we are comfortable with: be it the idea of god, life, politics or morality. To write is to seek, to seek is to question, to question is to contradict, to contradict is to establish the fundamental otherness that exists in the human world. Modern literature is not just other to religion, but also to the non-religious world. We may not live in real conditions of freedom, even though we may aspire for it. Only in literature, in the art of writing, do we find the freedom we always seek, and are denied.

Since the *fatwa* was delivered against him, Rushdie has been asking questions about literature. In three sharp essays published together in an anthology of essays in 1991, the writer raised certain questions that surfaced regarding the relationship between fiction and faith. These questions were not simply political in nature, but also aesthetic and ethical.

In his reflective essay, 'In God We Trust', Rushdie uncovers the unconscious roots of modern literature by emphasising how the "room of dreams" became occupied by unholy thoughts and creatures. Rushdie calls this room of dreams as the psychological root, or source, of modern imagination. The difference between faith and its loss is understood in terms of whether even our dreams are dictated by divine ordainment or there is space for deviation.

Rushdie equates our indoctri-

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nated images of the world that are part of our dreaming, our unconscious, as a "veil, maya" that prevent us from perceiving "things as they truly are" (like the deceptive form of shadows that hide reality in Plato's 'Allegory of the Cave'). Dreaming outside strict "frames", Rushdie suggests, may enable us to break out of our religious narcissism and accept the other, the world of difference, or heterodoxical imagination. In this sense, dreaming is not just a state but an act that enables us to register our freedom.

Here, Rushdie judiciously cautions us that the freedom to dream may not just be our "gift" but also "our fatal flaw". Imagination might be prone to a fundamental error. The refusal to submit to the "frames" handed down by religious truth might lead us to (make) mistakes. Dreaming, imagining, or writing, is precarious, where truth and error are equally possible. To act in freedom is not a guarantee of truthfulness. Writing about Dante's love for Beatrice in a short work of prose in 1948 titled 'The Meeting in a Dream', the Argentinian polymath, Jorge Luis Borges wrote: "To fall in love is to create a religion with a fallible god". We can extend that idolatrous definition of love to art and literature: all mortal creations, and what inspires them, is vulnerable.

Refugees of the imagination

In his combative essay, 'In Good Faith', Rushdie affirms his right to imagine against the diktat of purists. He declares his existential irresponsibility as "a b****** child of history". This audacious sensibility belongs to the 'minor', or marginalised, subject that wants to belong to the world (or nation, or community) by questioning its credentials. To consider oneself an illegitimate subject of history is not to find oneself outside history, but to register one's contrarian presence, as much as to seek respite and shelter from the sultans of power. The 'minor' figure of the refugee fits that description both in real and metaphoric terms. All modern writers are refugees of the imagination, looking for, to use Rushdie's inventive phrase, "imaginary homelands". The most provocative moment in the essay occurs when Rushdie defines freedom of expression, as "the freedom of offend". Offend whom, in what way, and how much? Is it a matter of measure, consideration, or responsibility? Or is it the free horse of imagination running wildly across the meadows of language?

Rushdie knows more than anyone else, such imagination has consequences. The audacity of imagination is not without risks. To write is to risk both language and the world. There is no fiction without friction. We are able to walk because the ground produces friction. We walk, think, speak and write, within a certain style and structure that enhances and limits our acts. The frictions and limits we face in language are socially and culturally produced within us. The whole point of writing (as much as walking and thinking) is to constantly push these limits that tend to hold us back. That is why freedom is precious: it makes us realise we can push the boundaries of nature.

In a short piece titled 'Against the Orthodoxies' that was part of an anthology by Muslim and Arabic writers in defence of Rushdie in 1994, Edward W. Said wrote: "Rushdie is the intifada of the imagination." Evoking Rushdie's rebellious gesture against the monopoly of truth by religious orthodoxy, Said connected it to the spirit of the resistance movement of Palestine. To question what is written, to be free to err against enforced certainties, to escape the room where we are guilty to dream, is what makes literature an act of rebellion in our times. The acts of cowardice by fanatics such as Matar keep the risks and promises of literature alive.

Manash Firaq Bhattacharjee is the author of 'Nehru and the Spirit of India'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A somersault

It is surprising that the Ministry of Home Affairs spared no time in rescinding the tweet by the Union Minister for Urban Development, Hardeep Singh Puri, on the issue of the settlement of Rohingya migrants (Page 1, "MHA overrules Minister's tweet on providing flats to Rohingya", August 18). The unsavoury episode raises questions: whether coordination and deliberations between the Home and Urban Development Ministries preceded the said announcement. And whether the Prime Minister was briefed and his approval taken as this concerns the settlement of migrants from Myanmar, where the situation is still fluid. Treating the Rohingya as refugees or as infiltrators necessitating their deportation is a different matter. What could have been thrashed out between two key Ministries quietly has been allowed to cause embarrassment to the Government. This is mismanagement and inept handling of a sensitive issue at the highest level.

V. JOHAN DHANAKUMAR,
Chennai

■ The ignominious unfolding of events has revealed the lack of communication between the authorities and the Ministries concerned. The Government should have a proper stand especially on sensitive issues. The Government should try to swiftly resolve the long-standing issue of the Rohingya. Meanwhile, the least it can do is to make sure that they have proper living conditions, security and dignity.

JAYANTH S. PALAT,
Akathethara, Palakkad, Kerala

■ The surprising development on an issue as sensitive as the state of the Rohingya creates the perception that the Government does not possess any clarity over its plan of action, and, further, is easily swayed by the influence of some organisations. Its weak attempt to deflect responsibility to the Delhi government does not help matters either.

SHREYA SINGH,
Mumbai

■ The Rohingya are already persecuted. It would be unfair and inhuman on the part of the Indian government to subject them to difficulties, also because they happen to be a minority community.

A.A.H.K. GHORI,
Chennai

■ While refugees do need compassion, there are limits. India cannot house and take responsibility for illegal foreigners. India needs to work with Myanmar to resolve the issue.

BALASUBRAMANIAM PAVANI,
Secunderabad

Release of convicts

The release of 11 convicts linked to the Bilkis Bano case is a black day in the history of governance. There has to be a rollback as such crude leverage to the convicts speaks very low of the law and order situation in India. The remission, in this case, is certainly more offensive to the aggrieved parties than perhaps the actual offence itself.

A.P. THIRUVADI,
Chennai

■ The heinous crime is one that can never be forgiven nor can it be forgotten. Allowing remission in barbaric crimes is worse than the crime itself. Even now it is not late to act and revisit the decision.

SESHADRI SANTANAM,
Chennai

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the "From The Archives" column (August 17, 2022), a sentence under "A Hundred Years Ago – August 17, 1922" erroneously referred to the 1928 policy of mutual consultation. It should have been 1918.

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Should there be limits on 'freebies'?

PARLEY

We need to distinguish between freebies and welfare, and raise revenue expenditure

While hearing a petition demanding the de-recognition of political parties that promise "irrational freebies" to voters, the Supreme Court recently drew attention to the substantial fiscal cost of freebies. The court noted that a legislation banning freebies is not advisable, but at the same time called for a balance between welfare measures and loss to the public exchequer. The Supreme Court's observation comes in the backdrop of the clash between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Aam Aadmi Party on the issue of wasteful spending on freebies. It also takes in the larger public debate on how to differentiate welfare spending from freebies. Reetika Khera and N.R. Bhanumurthy discuss various aspects of the subject in a discussion moderated by **Prashanth Perumal J**. *Edited excerpts:*

Reetika Khera *is Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi*

N.R. Bhanumurthy *is Vice-Chancellor of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar School of Economics University*

Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

Where do we draw the line between welfare and freebies?

Reetika Khera: This is not an easy question to answer because it depends on your perspective and where you sit on income distribution pyramid. Also, even if people are sitting at the top of the income distribution pyramid, you could still see something that the petitioner describes as a "freebie" as a welfare measure. There's a reference in the petition to the Directive Principles. Directive Principles can certainly guide state policy. But it is not always possible to clearly say this is welfare, and this is a freebie. We can take the example of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's response to this petition where they refer to electricity, which is one of the things that the petitioner objects to as a freebie, as something that can provide clean fuel in the house, keep you warm, help a child study, etc. So, there are all kinds of ripple effects. Something at first glance may look like a freebie to someone who is privileged, but it may be something that enhances the future earnings of a poor person.

N.R. Bhanumurthy: If we limit ourselves to the economic and public policy perspective, a freebie is any public policy intervention that will have a long-term impact on production as well as productivity. Any public policy intervention that doesn't support medium-term to long-term production and productivity may be termed as a freebie. Many States and even the Central government follow some policies that don't really support production and productivity. We need to have an institutional mechanism to control wasteful expenditure. We just talked about electricity. It is also important to understand and identify who can be the beneficiary of a particular public policy. You cannot have a blanket policy – for instance, say that you will give free electricity for all. So, there is a need to identify the policies that have a long-term impact. At the same time, there is a need to identify the beneficiary sets.

Is India spending too much on welfare or freebies? What do you think of comparisons with Sri Lanka?

NRB: First, let's first understand what's happening to the fiscal situation of the States. Studies, especially by the Reserve Bank of India (Study on State Finances), have showed that from 2014 onwards, the social sector expenditure at the State level has been declining even after States were given more resources. We all know that health and education are important sectors to be funded by State governments. But we see that the allocation to those sectors by the States is actually declining. So, while one can argue that there is a need to spend more resources on welfare schemes, we also need to understand to what extent State governments can spend, and if there is a need for conditional grants. Second, an RBI report two months ago brought to light the fiscal situation of States. Going forward, at least five States are going to see fiscal pressure. Ultimately, I think we need to keep track of allocations to the social sector. At the same time, it is high time we started talking about public expenditure efficiency in this country.

It would be unfair to compare India with Sri Lanka. But clearly, there are some lessons to be learned, especially when we look at government liabilities. We always talk about fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, GDP growth, etc., but I think the most crucial variable in this whole debate is the public debt or outstanding liabilities. Fiscal crises happen not because of the fiscal deficit of any particular year, but due to the public debt stock that is accumulating over a period of time.

N. RAJESH

> **If we limit ourselves to the economic and public policy perspective, a freebie is any public policy intervention that will have a long-term impact on production as well as productivity.**
>
> N.R. BHANUMURTHY

RK: Welfare spending in India is woefully low. It is low in comparison to other developing countries - some years ago, public spending on health and education was 4.7% in India, compared to 7% in sub-Saharan Africa. And it is also declining in many States. Even at the Central level, welfare spending, at least in the sectors I track, has been declining. Beyond that, whenever we talk about welfare spending, we only focus on whether we are spending too little or too much. We never discuss whether we are raising enough revenues in the first place. Why is that question not asked in the Indian context when we know that we are not doing enough on the revenue front? For instance, the income tax base has been more or less stagnant in spite of the high economic growth we experienced until a few years ago. But there are also many tax instruments that we are not using at all in India. We don't have a wealth tax, estate tax, inheritance tax, etc. Property taxes in India are very low compared to other countries. If we raised more revenues, we would have more to redistribute. The elite and the privileged don't want to talk about these issues because they will end up paying these taxes. You referred to what happened in Sri Lanka. But I'm not really sure that the fiscal situation there was triggered by welfare spending alone. There are many other things happening there which led to the crisis.

Is there truth to the belief that States are more profligate in their spending than the Centre?

NRB: When we talk about the fiscal situation of States, we need to keep in mind that before 2015-16, States used to spend more resources on capital expenditure largely following their Medium-Term Fiscal Frameworks. But after that, as RBI studies pointed out, there is a deterioration in the quality of expenditures. It looks like State governments are taking the easy path, and that's the reason we are debating freebies. It has led to a decline in tax resources as well. As you're not spending on productive activities, it ends up driving down your tax revenues also. I think the problem seems to be on the revenue side as well as the expenditure side. Ultimately, we need to have a good tax framework, where you have much better resources for more social sector expenditure while also ensuring medium-term debt sustainability.

Is there room, considering India is still a developing country, to raise taxes and engage in greater redistribution?

NRB: We all know that less than 6% of the people pay income tax in this country. Many policy measures and institutions have been brought in to address the issue of widening the direct tax base. But in the case of indirect taxes I certainly feel that the Goods and Services Tax is going to be a game changer. I've seen that the government is also actually looking at how to remove multiple tax exemptions because of the perverse incentives. That is one thing. The second is when it comes to non-tax revenues, while we do see that there is a significant growth at the Central government level, there is a substantial decline at the State government level over a period of time. Although Finance Commissions keep providing incentives, I don't see States actually taking advantage of that.

RK: There is an old paper by Thomas Piketty and his co-author that explores the reasons why India has not been able to expand its income tax base, like China or Brazil, which at that time (about 10-15 years ago) already had a tax base of around 8%. One is that the tax exemption limit in India keeps getting raised year after year. Now, there is clearly a compliance issue. Are we to believe that there are only 6% Indians who are above the threshold for the income tax? If it is true, this is a very serious situation. It tells you how dire the conditions are. And if more people are earning more than the income tax threshold, then basically we have a serious compliance issue. That is one very clear source of tax revenue. I'm not even asking for income tax rates to be raised, but rather, have better compliance. During COVID-19, one estimate suggested that the average net worth of the 953 richest Indians was more than 5,000 crore rupees. Their combined wealth is about one-quarter of India's GDP. If you levy a one-time 4% wealth tax on them, you could get revenues worth 1% of GDP, which is not something to scoff at. Similarly, to put things in perspective, we are raising 0.2% of GDP through property tax, whereas the developing country average is 0.6% of GDP and in OECD countries it is 2% of GDP. So again, there is great scope to raise revenues. There has to be some redistribution - it is a core function of the government. The unfortunate thing is that a lot of people who are sitting at the top of the income distribution think of themselves as "middle class" and therefore grudge any taxes. I think they don't realise that the tail [of the distribution] behind them is much longer. So, we need some perspective, and this discussion has to happen with data.

What is your view on the Supreme Court's suggestion to balance welfare spending and the loss that such spending may cause to the public exchequer?

RK: The court has mentioned the need to balance welfare spending and our fiscal concerns. But I would also ask why the court isn't saying that we have to balance the sops that are given to the privileged with our fiscal concerns. If there is no possibility of raising more revenues and you have a redistributive role to play, then clearly you should reduce the money that is flowing to the privileged. And it is flowing in many different ways. One is, of course, these big bad loan waivers, given to big corporations. There is also the reduction in corporate taxes. And there are things like the vanity projects that many governments have been spending on, whether it is these big statues, going into thousands of crores, bullet trains, etc. But also, on a more micro basis – for instance, for women in government service, there's child care leave for up to two years. I understand and support the expansion of maternity benefits. But what is this two years of paid leave for child care? Why should that not be questioned? The many sops that are flowing to the most privileged should be the first ones that should go if there is no possibility of raising revenues and expenditures have to be cut.

NRB: Unfortunately, subsidy has become a bad word in this country. Although it's certainly needed in some areas, it is very important for us to look also at implicit subsidies, which are mostly non-merit subsidies across sectors. And we have many studies, especially by Govinda Rao and Sudipto Mundle, which have showed that even today in India, we have more than 8% of GDP that actually gets spent on implicit subsidies. I think we need to really look at whether those implicit subsidies can be reduced so that you get more resources for the welfare or social sector expenditure.

NOTEBOOK

The dilemma of a witness

While on the field, reporters sometimes wonder if merely doing their job is enough

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

What happens after a news story is published? This is a question that bothers journalists spend their time jumping from one news story to another.

After more than a decade of reporting, some stories remain etched in my memory. It is particularly difficult to forget images – more precisely, the faces of the people who made that story. These include the face of the old woman on a remote sinking island in West Bengal who was picking through the rubble after her house was devastated by a cyclone; the worker of a closed tea garden who was lying ill with tuberculosis; the trafficking survivor who was battling HIV and had been reduced to a bag of bones; the jute mill worker who had been out of work for months and had no money for food; and the tribal couple who had been denied ration under the public distribution system because they could not link their ration cards to Aadhaar in Jharkhand. When we encounter people in severe distress, the first thought that often strikes us is: what can we do to make a difference to their lives?

DEBASISH BHADURI

The people in the story on the faulty PDS in Jharkhand were victims of a cruel experiment by the state to push technology in one of the poorest parts of the country. Soon after the story was published, I received several emails from people who wanted to help the families with money or in other ways. It has been three years since I reported that story, but I find it difficult to forget the victims. When social workers took us to their homes, which had practically nothing, we felt overwhelmingly sad. "Should we give them some money," the photojournalist accompanying me asked, when we entered the house of a mother and young son. Both of them looked ill; they were probably suffering from tuberculosis. They had been stripped of their PDS entitlement. I suggested that we could buy some food, but then wondered if they needed to be hospitalised and if we should take it up with the authorities. But despite taking up the issue with the concerned Minister the next day, it was only after the story was published that the mother and son were hospitalised.

During a recent visit to the West Bengal State Legal Services Authority, I was greeted by a smile from a trafficking survivor. "You had come to our village," she said. I recalled the story she spoke about, from four years ago. What struck me was that nothing had changed: the survivors were still waiting for compensation, which is their legal right.

I also often wonder what happened to Ali Hussain Mansuri, whose shop in Barrackpore was burnt and his home ransacked in the communal riots of May 2019. I'll never forget the sadness on his face when he described how politics had vitiated centuries of coexistence of Hindus and Muslims. He has stopped calling and asking whether he will get any compensation.

In such instances, reporters are often conflicted on whether or not to help these people personally or through a collective effort. The instinct to do so when you see such misery is strong, especially when you wonder whether being mere witnesses to their stories is enough. But how sustainable can such aid be? And how many people can we possibly reach out to when the state is failing?

As journalists, our job is to report stories. We hope to make a difference to their lives through those stories. But the question of whether we could have done more haunts all reporters, and there is no easy answer.

The stories we reported may have given people living on the margins a voice. We can only hope that they brought some change for the better to their lives. These experiences push us to reflect on the lives of the people, their challenges in accessing even bare necessities and their long fight for justice.

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DATA POINT

State of development

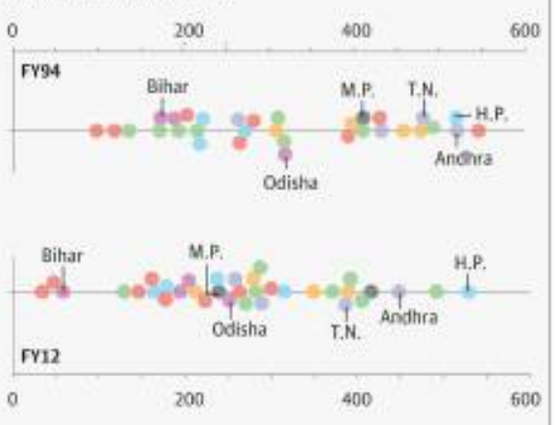
A comparison of development indicators across States shows that they all have progressed over time, though the degree of improvement varies. In general, the eastern States performed poorly. In terms of per capita net State Domestic Product (constant prices) or SDP, all States were below the ₹20,000 mark in FY94. By FY20, all the southern and some western and northern States (except U.P.) had crossed the ₹1 lakh mark. With >40% under the poverty line, Bihar, Odisha, and M.P. had a high poverty rate in FY94. These States remained among the poorest even in FY12. The share of rural women in the labour force (LFPR) declined across all States between FY94 and FY12. Kerala and Goa were the top States across both periods in the Human Development Index (HDI).
Regions: North (●), South (●), East (●), Northeast (●), West (●), Central India (●) and U.T. (●).
By **Rebecca Rose Varghese**

SDP (in ₹): FY94 vs FY20

1 The graph shows per capita SDP. In FY94, all States were below the ₹20,000 mark. But by FY20, all the southern States, western States (except Rajasthan) and northern States (except U.P.) had crossed the ₹1 lakh mark. Eastern and central States stayed behind the mark

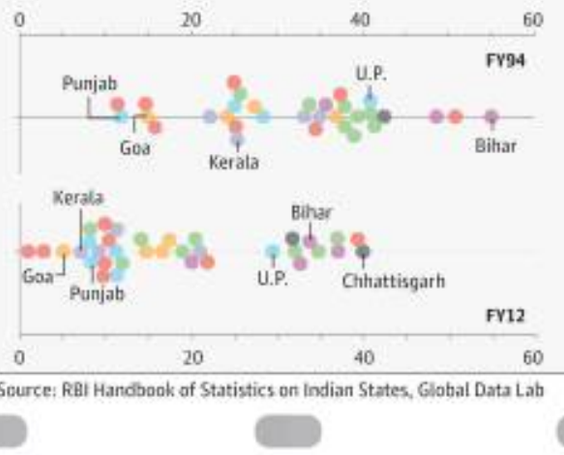
Working rural women: FY94 vs FY12

3 The graph shows the LFPR per 1,000 rural women. The share of women in the labour force declined across all the States between FY94 and FY12. In FY12, more than half the woman were part of the rural workforce only in Himachal Pradesh



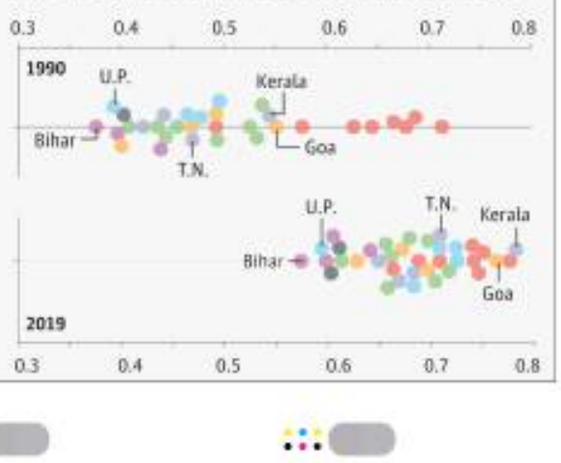
Poverty line: FY94 vs FY12

2 The graph shows the poverty rate. In the mid-1990s, Bihar had the highest poverty rate (55%). By FY12, Chhattisgarh (39.9%) had replaced Bihar as the worst performing State. While Punjab (11.8%) had the lowest share in FY94, by FY12 Goa had the lowest share (5.1%)



State-wise HDI: 1990 vs 2019

4 The graph depicts HDI measured on a scale of 0 (worst) to 1 (best). While only Kerala and Goa had crossed 0.55 in 1990, all the States/UTs had crossed this mark by 2019. Only Bihar and Uttar Pradesh had an HDI of less than 0.6 in 2019. Kerala and Goa remained at the top



Source: RBI Handbook of Statistics on Indian States, Global Data Lab

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 19, 1972

New paper mills proposed

New Delhi, Aug. 18: To meet the current paper and newsprint famine the Government is setting up three mills in different parts of the country. The new mills will be administered by the Hindustan Paper Corporation, which was specifically set up in the public sector for this purpose in May 1970. The first report of the Corporation, which was placed on the table of the Lok Sabha to-day, says the three projects would be: (a) An integrated pulp and paper mill in Nagaland with a capacity of 30,000 tonnes per annum; (b) an integrated pulp and paper mill in Assam (Nowgong district) with a capacity of 80,000 tonnes per annum and (c) a newsprint mill in Kerala with a capacity of 75,000 tonnes per annum. The report says all the mills would go into production during 1975-76. While the Assam and Kerala projects are being directly executed by the Corporation, the Nagaland project is being implemented through a subsidiary company which has been jointly floated by the Nagaland Government and the Corporation. In this joint venture, the Nagaland Government holds one-eighth of the share-capital, the rest being held by the Corporation. A new raw material (eucalyptus) was tested recently at the Nepa mills to determine its suitability for manufacturing newsprint at the Kerala project. The report says: "Except for a newsprint mill at Nepanagar in the public sector, the paper industry in the country has so far been the preserve of the private sector. During the past few years, there has been a distinct slowing down in the rate of creation of additional capacity in paper industry. This has been so, in spite of the increase in the demand for paper, with the consequence that the country is faced with the prospect of an acute paper and newsprint famine in the years ahead."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 19, 1922

Reparations

Washington, August 17: No progress has been made in the discussions of treasury officials with Parmentier regarding the payment of French debt to America. The latter's invitation to France to send a representative to negotiate was framed in the belief that the envoy would be empowered to state what France was prepared to do to meet her obligations whereas Parmentier is only able to present figures which were obtainable from other sources relating to France's financial position.

FROM PAGE ONE

SC orders status quo on HC decision on IOA

"By virtue of the present order [of the Delhi High Court], there is every possibility of losing the chance of participating in the Olympics and all international events. It is said the situation is not in the interest of the country... It is made clear that the charge has not been handed over [to the CoA]. We direct parties to maintain status quo," the Supreme Court recorded in its order.

The Delhi High Court had on Tuesday directed the setting up of a CoA comprising former Supreme Court judge Justice Anil R. Dave, former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi and former Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs Vikas Swarup.

The High Court had justified the order citing the "persistent recalcitrance" of the IOA to comply with the Sports Code.

It has directed the Executive Committee of the IOA to forthwith hand over the charge to the CoA, which would be assisted by three eminent sportspersons, namely, Olympians Abhinav Bindra, Anju Bobby George and Bombayla Devi Laishram.

Abandoned boat with weapons triggers scare

The police were put on high alert and that the administration was constantly in touch with the Coast Guard on the issue.

The Deputy Chief Minister said Central investigating agencies were being roped in and that the government would deploy additional police force, if needed, to ensure that the upcoming Janmashtami celebrations pass off smoothly.

A Coast Guard official too dismissed the concern of a security threat, stating that the boat had given a distress call while sailing from Oman to Europe and that people onboard were rescued by ships in the vicinity of Muscat on June 26.

The arms vendor had been contacted and the serial numbers of the weapons found onboard match with the ones missing from the vendor's inventory, the official said.

Earlier, police officials said multiple teams were rushed to the spot and the three AK-56 assault rifles and 10 boxes containing over 200 live rounds were seized. A wireless alert was sent out across the Raigad district and checkpoints were set up while security was beefed up in Mumbai and other cities.

Nationalist Congress Party leader and Shrivardhan MLA Aditi Tatkare demanded that Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Mr. Fadnavis urgently appoint a special team of the Anti-Terrorist Squad or any other State agency to probe the case.

Centre blocks eight YouTube news channels

The Information & Broadcasting Ministry said fake news – such as the Union government having ordered demolition of religious structures and banned celebration of religious festivals – were being spread.

One channel talked about "declaration of religious war in India, etc".

"Such content was found to have the potential to create communal disharmony and disturb public order in the country," it said.

Fake news

The YouTube channels also used to post "fake news" on issues like the Indian armed forces and Jammu & Kashmir, which was "completely false and sensitive from the perspective of national security and India's friendly relations with foreign States". The blocked Indian channels had been using fake and sensational thumbnails, images of news anchors and logos of certain TV news channels to mislead the viewers into believing that their content was authentic. All the channels were displaying advertisements in their videos having false content that was also "detrimental to communal harmony, public order and India's foreign relations".

Since December last year, the Ministry has issued directions for blocking 102 YouTube news channels and several other social media accounts.

Palaniswami rejects OPS appeal for unity

Mr. Panneerselvam was also responsible for the delay in the election of Mr. Palaniswami as the leader of the AIADMK legislature party, even though the former had the support of only three members whereas he [Mr. Palaniswami] was backed by 63 members.

"If he [Mr. Panneerselvam] makes an issue every time, how will people accept the party? This was why the demand for single leadership cropped up," Mr. Palaniswami explained.

The joint coordinator complained that most of the office-bearers and senior leaders had discussed the issue of single leadership with Mr. Panneerselvam for 15 days but the latter did not agree to the new arrangement. Mr. Palaniswami also accused the coordinator of "collaboration" with the party's principal adversary, the DMK.

Earlier, Mr. Panneerselvam, in his interaction with presspersons at his residence in Chennai, said the party was now facing an "extraordinary situation" in view of recent differences. "Let bygones be bygones. Having removed them [the differences] from our hearts, it is our stand that the party should become united again. Considering the ideals of Puratchi Thalaivar [M.G. Ramachandran] and Amma [Jayalalithaa] and their sacrifices, we want to resolve that the party should once again capture power to serve people."

The coordinator claimed he had been getting the feedback from different areas of the State, underscoring the need for unity of the party.

Describing Mr. Palaniswami as his "dear brother," he said he had given "full cooperation" to Mr. Palaniswami for four and a half years when the latter was Chief Minister.

To a specific query whether his call would apply to Ms. Sasikala and AMMK general secretary TTV Dhinakaran, he replied in the affirmative.

Later, Mr. Dhinakaran, in a couple of tweets, said "selfless and democratic" people would welcome Mr. Panneerselvam's observations with a view to defeating the DMK.

BJP is delaying Naga peace pact with an eye on elections: Cong.

'Ruling party wants help from militant groups, not interested in resolving issues'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The 2015 Naga Peace Framework announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a "farce" and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is delaying a solution to the Naga issue because the party takes help of militant groups to win elections, the Congress alleged on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters convened by All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge Ajoy Kumar and Nagaland Congress chief K. Therie, Mr. Kumar said the BJP only wants to win elections and is not interested in resolving the long-pending issue of peace in Nagaland.

"The solution is being delayed because the Modi government is seeking the support of armed groups of NSCN [National Socialist Council of Nagaland] to win Assembly elections in the State. Is there anything more anti-national than this?" asked Mr. Kumar.

> On August 3, 2015, Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] announced to this country that they have found the solution to the Naga problem. The Prime Minister has lied to the country, because there is no solution for the past seven years
>
> AJOY KUMAR
> All India Congress Committee in-charge Nagaland

"On 3rd of August, 2015, Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] announced to this country that they have found the solution to the Naga problem. The Prime Minister has lied to the country, because there is no solution for the past seven years," he added.

Mr. Kumar also alleged that the Enforcement Directorate has reduced itself to being the "election department of the BJP" as it has stopped probing into the huge assets of Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, since Mr. Rio's party, Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), contested elections as the BJP's ally.

Mr. Therie said that the Naga people had a chance to choose between communist China and a secular India 75 years ago and they chose India. "Today the choice for people of Nagaland is should we opt for communalism or should we go with communists. Because secularism is failing," he said.

"We deserve an honest Prime Minister. Why does the Prime Minister continue to lie and betray the aspirations of the people who want peace and settlement," he said, adding that expectations of a major announcement on August 15 were belied.

Congress postpones anti-price rise rally

It will now be held on September 4

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday announced its decision to reschedule its mega rally against price rise from August 28 to September 4 in view of the growing number of COVID-19 cases in the national capital.

Former Congress party chief Rahul Gandhi will address the '*Mehangai Par Halla Bol*' rally in Delhi and would be present at the Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra three days later, on September 7.

The *padayatra* will cover 3,500 km across 12 States and two Union Territories.

"Due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation, the Congress party's Mehangai Par Halla Bol Rally at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi, is being rescheduled from Aug 28th to Sept 4th. The rally will send a powerful message to the insensitive Modi sarkar!" party communication chief Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet.

Interacting with reporters later, Mr. Ramesh said that every Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) will organise '*Mehangai Par Halla Bol Dilli Chalo*' meetings on August 22, to be followed by district-level programmes on August 25 and Block-level meets on August 27.

The announcement was made after a meeting of senior leaders, including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel at the party headquarters. Other leaders present at the meeting included general secretaries K.C. Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Ajay Maken, Randeep Surjewala, among others.

Border States told to watch out for demographic changes

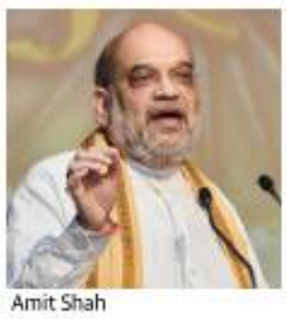
Shah addresses conference hosted by Intelligence Bureau

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday asked the police chiefs of border States to keep strict vigil on demographic changes and radicalisation in border districts.

He said the soon-to-be-launched 5G technology should be used to strengthen the security system, and a presentation was made on emerging challenges around the technology.

Mr. Shah addressed over 600 police officers on the second day of the National Security Strategies Conference organised by the Intelligence Bureau. The Bureau made a presentation on the rising Muslim population in the border districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.



Amit Shah

Mr. Shah said that the Director-General of Police in border States should ensure that technological and strategic information percolates down the police hierarchy.

He said States should give priority to national security issues. "This is the fight for the future of the country and the youth, for which we have to fight together in one direction and win at any cost," Mr. Shah said.

He said the National Automatic Fingerprint Identification System, developed for the first time in the country, should be used in grassroot level policing for better investigation.

Mr. Shah said the Centre was preparing a database of different types of crimes. "For the first time, with a scientific approach, so much work has been done on so many fronts simultaneously," the Minister said.

"The basic principle of a modern intelligence agency should not be 'need to know', but 'need to share' and 'duty to share' because we will not get success unless the approach changes," he said.

ED searches properties linked to former MLA Mukhtar Ansari

Residence of Afzal Ansari, his brother, was also raided

MAYANK KUMAR
LUCKNOW

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday searched about a dozen locations linked to the jailed former Uttar Pradesh MLA Mukhtar Ansari and his close aides in connection with a money laundering case.

The searches were carried out in the Dali Bagh area of Lucknow and more than six places in the Ghazipur and Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh. The official residence of Lok Sabha Member Afzal Ansari, the former MLA's elder brother, was also searched in Delhi.

Multiple sources in Lucknow, who are privy to the development, said the raids were conducted to gather evidence in the ongoing probe against Mukhtar Ansari under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The premises of his three business associates, apart from those of his family members, were also searched.

Under watch: Security personnel standing guard outside the residence of Afzal Ansari during the ED search. •PTI

The action comes days after the local administration, following an order from the Ghazipur District Magistrate Mangala Prasad Singh, seized two plots of land. The combined worth of the land parcels, which are registered in the name of Mukhtar Ansari's wife Afsa Ansari is over ₹6 crore, and is alleged to have been bought through illegal earnings.

No action yet on TMC plea against Sisir Adhikari

Party writes to LS Speaker once again

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

With no action taken against rebel MP Sisir Adhikari more than seven months after the Trinamool Congress's petition seeking his disqualification was referred to the Lok Sabha Privileges Committee, the party has written again to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Trinamool's Parliamentary leader in Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien said the disqualification process has been slowed down because the BJP is afraid of bypolls.

Mr. Adhikari, a Lok Sabha member from Kanthi in West Bengal, had quit Trinamool to join the BJP in March last year in the run-up to Assembly elections in the State. Soon after the elections, Trinamool's Lok Sabha leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay had written to Mr. Birla seeking to disqualify Mr. Adhikari under the anti-defection law.

The party last week shot off another letter to Mr. Birla alleging that Mr. Adhikhari is trying to stall the proceedings. Since the application was admitted in the Privileges Committee the panel has met eight times. Mr. Adhikari's disqualification case was on agenda only once in a meeting (on April 26) which too had to be cancelled because of lack of quorum.

Court imposes ₹500 cost on masjid panel in Gyanvapi case

It sought adjournments after lead advocate passed away

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In the ongoing Gyanvapi masjid-Kashi Vishwanath temple civil dispute, a district court in Varanasi on Thursday imposed a cost of ₹500 on the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, after lawyers representing the masjid panel sought multiple adjournments on account of the lead lawyer Abhay Nath Yadav's sudden death on July 31.

District judge A.K. Vishvesha was on Thursday was set to hear the case, when the new advocates appointed by the masjid panel sought time of 10 more days to prepare arguments.

After Mr. Yadav's sudden death, the masjid panel decided to appoint Advocates Yogendra Prasad Singh and Shamim Ahmad to represent it in the district court hearing. They were supposed to give their vakalatnama in court on the previous date but did it on Thursday and sought time to prepare submissions, Advocate Raees Ahmed, who is part of the masjid panel's legal team, said.

The district court, however, was not inclined to grant further time and posted the matter for next hearing on August 22. The district court is currently hearing the petition filed by plaintiff Rakhi Singh and four other Hindu women, seeking the right to pray inside the mosque premises where there they claim is a shrine of Maa Shringar Gauri.

While the civil court hearing the case earlier had ordered a survey of the premises, the district court had decided that it would first hear the panel's application under Order 7 Rule 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure, challenging the maintainability of the plaintiffs' suit.

IN BRIEF

CBI conducts searches in ₹11 cr. missing coins' case

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Thursday conducted searches at 25 locations in connection with case of coins worth ₹11 crore missing from the State Bank of India's Karauli branch in Rajasthan. The alleged fraud was detected in August 2021.

Centre hikes windfall tax on diesel, ATF exports

NEW DELHI

The Centre has revived the windfall tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel exports at ₹2 per litre, raised the export tax on diesel from ₹5 a litre to ₹7, and slashed the central excise levy on domestic crude oil to ₹13,000 per tonne. The new windfall taxes will kick in from August 19.

Mob lynches man wanted for rape in Assam

GUWAHATI

A mob on Thursday lynched a criminal in Lakhimpur district of North-eastern Assam. Raju Baruah, wanted for rape, murder and other crimes, had escaped from police custody along with two others on Tuesday. People thrashed Baruah after spotting him in Dhakuakhana town. The police rescued him but he died of injuries at a hospital.

Dalit student assaulted for sitting in front row

RAIPUR

A government school teacher has been booked for allegedly assaulting a Dalit student for sitting in the front row in Singrauli area in Madhya Pradesh. The process of suspension has also been initiated. The purported incident took place on August 2. The teacher in question has also been accused of casteist slurs in the past when she was posted in another school.

Exit of MLAs sparks concern in Cong. Himachal unit

Two legislators join BJP amid worries that reshuffle ahead of Assembly elections may backfire

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

As two Congress MLAs joined the ruling BJP in Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday, political experts and a section of party members were concerned about the party's decision to revamp the State unit, just a few months ahead of the Assembly elections.

In April this year, the Congress appointed former State Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh's wife and Lok Sabha MP Pratibha Singh as the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president. Four working presidents were appointed including Harsh Mahajan, Rajinder Rana, Pawan Kajal, and Vinay Kumar apart from several office-bearers.

The Congress party had registered a big win in the Assembly and Parliamentary byelections that were held in October 2021 in Himachal Pradesh under then party president Kuldeep Singh Rathore and looked strong and unified.

Poll pressure: Lakhvinder Rana and Pawan Kajal with J.P. Nadda after joining the BJP on Wednesday. •PTI

'Jumbo list'

However, later, as the State unit was revamped by replacing the president and appointing four working presidents, besides a 'jumbo' list of office-bearers, concerns were felt by a section of party leaders over "tinkering" with an established unit which had delivered victory in key elections.

"When the party unit was revamped, there were leaders who felt that a similar exercise of revamping the State unit just a few months ahead of the Assembly polls in neighbouring Punjab had failed to bear fruitful results. Such an experiment could prove detrimental in Himachal as well," said a senior party leader, requesting anonymity. The two MLAs who left the Congress and joined the BJP are Mr. Kajal and Lakhwinder Rana. Notably, Mr. Kajal was one of the newly appointed working presidents of Congress's State unit. Both the leaders, sources said, were perturbed over the State leadership's efforts "to weaken them in their Assembly constituencies and promote other leaders against them".

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reacting after the two MLAs joined the BJP, HPCC president Pratibha Singh said both leaders had come to the Congress from BJP. "The party gave them a lot of respect but we do not know what fear they had of which agency or greed that they have returned to the BJP. They have been expelled from the party," she said.

"Ms. Pratibha Singh was brought in as party chief with hopes of capitalising on the legacy of the late Virbhadra Sigh. However, her stature and acceptability in the party are questionable. The 'groupism' within the party has been coming to the fore as the election is inching closer," said professor Harish Thakur, chairperson of the Department of Political Science at Shimla-based Himachal Pradesh University.

'India-China ties going through difficult phase'

Both should join hands for Asian Century, says Jaishankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BANGKOK

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Thursday that the relationship between India and China was going through an "extremely difficult phase" after what Beijing had done at the border.

He made the remarks while responding to a series of questions after delivering a lecture on 'India's Vision of the Indo-Pacific' at the Chulalongkorn University here.

Responding to a question, Mr. Jaishankar said that the Asian Century would happen when China and India come together but it would be difficult to happen if both countries do not come together.

"At the moment, [the India-China] relationship is going through an extremely difficult phase after what China did at the border," he said.

S. Jaishankar

Chinese and Indian troops are engaged in a prolonged standoff in eastern Ladakh. The two sides have so far held 16 rounds of Corps Commander Level talks to resolve the standoff which erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Lake areas.

"We very much hope that wisdom dawns on the Chinese side," the External Affairs Minister said.

Mr. Jaishankar said India had done the best of its abilities to assist Sri Lanka. This year alone, India had extended $3.8 billion of support to Sri Lanka, including line of credits and swap arrangements, he said.

On the issue of Rohingya refugees, he said the issue had been discussed with Bangladesh. "What matters for them is repatriation. We have been supportive of Bangladesh," he said.

Responding to another question, the External Affairs Minister dismissed criticism for importing discounted Russian oil, saying India was not the only oil importing country. The U.S. and European nations have imposed heavy sanctions on Russia.

Russia using a 'tailored' approach

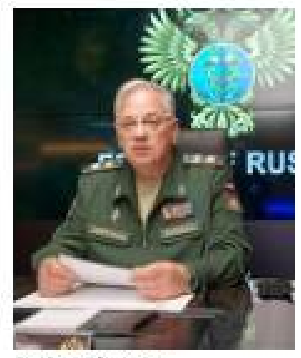
Customised defence deals offered to offset sanctions impact

DINAKAR PERI
MOSCOW

Russian exporters of military products are operating in a new reality and payments for defence deals in U.S. dollar and euro have been reduced to a minimum, said Dmitry Shugaev, Director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FSMTC) of Russia.

He said that they are adopting various measures to offset the impact of sanctions including switching to payments in national currencies.

"In connection with the current political events, certain logistical problems may arise which entail changes in the timing of the supply of military products to foreign customers. However, the measures we are taking together with partners, including the Indian side, to find and implement alternative ways of supplying military products will neutralise the barriers erected by Western countries against Russia in the field of military-technical cooperation," Mr. Shugaev said in response to a question from *The Hindu*.


Dmitry Shugaev

He said Russian "countermeasures" against sanctions consist of a tailored approach to each of their customers.

Indian Defence Ministry officials had stated that in addition to apprehensions about timely deliveries of spares and equipment due to the war in Ukraine, another issue that has arisen is payments for deals underway since Russia was shut out of the global SWIFT system for money transfers.

The Central banks of the two countries had extensively discussed this issue and small payments have been resumed, officials stated that modalities to undertake larger payments are still being worked out.

India and Russia have already agreed to conduct payments through the rupee-rouble arrangement.

On the ongoing India-Russia defence cooperation, Mr. Shugaev said in addition to upgrades of military hardware in the inventory of the Indian armed forces, there are other areas of cooperation between our countries such as creating conditions for servicing the delivered weapons and equipment in India, as well as jointly producing various types of equipment and weapons for sale in third countries.

Stressing that they are aligned to the "Make in India" initiative, he said, "The emphasis is on setting up the production of weapons of Russian design in India and conducting joint research and development."

Doval discusses trade ties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met with Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, who is in charge of Russia's weapons industry, on Thursday in Moscow. The second day of official engagements saw Mr. Doval exchange ideas on bilateral trade, technological collaboration, and cultural cooperation.

A press release from the Russian side stated, "The parties discussed the development of trade and economic ties and issues related to cooperation."

SC hears plea to monitor drug pricing

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday took serious note of a plea to bring transparency in drug pricing and monitoring mechanism while pointing to a recent accusation against the manufacturer of Dolo 650 tablet of indulging in "unethical practices".

An NGO that has filed the petition said the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had accused the pharma group manufacturing the well-known drug of distributing freebies to the tune of ₹1,000 crore to doctors and medical professionals in order to promote its product.

"The 650 mg dosage is irrational," senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, representing the Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives Association of India, submitted.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, who led the Bench hearing the case, said, "What you are saying is not music to my ears. This is exactly what I had when I had COVID-19."

Mr. Parikh said the market price of Dolo up to 500 mg was under regulation. Any dosage beyond 500 mg is outside regulation.

The petition urged the court to direct the government to give the Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (Code) statutory basis.

Unethical practices should reap consequences. Companies should be made accountable, the federation said.

The court gave the government 10 days to reply to the petition. The federation would then have a week to file its rejoinder.

The court posted the case for September 29.

Netaji's daughter calls for DNA test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's daughter Anita Bose Pfaff said she will soon approach the Indian government and the Japanese government for a DNA test of the ashes at Tokyo's Renkoji Temple.

In an interview to *PTI*, Ms. Pfaff said that resolving the mystery shrouding Mr. Bose's life and bringing back the ashes to India would be a tribute to the revolutionary as the country celebrates its 75th anniversary of Independence.

Gupkar Alliance opposes EC move in J&K

Farooq Abdullah calls all-party meeting in Srinagar to discuss the issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, president of the J&K-based Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, on Thursday called an all-party meeting in Srinagar over the Election Commission's (EC) move to allow outsiders to enlist as voters in the Union Territory, a move being opposed by all political parties here.

Besides parties affiliated to the Gupkar Alliance such as the Peoples Democratic Party, CPI(M) and Awami National Conference, Dr. Abdullah also called up other leaders, including Peoples Conference chairman Sajjad Gani Lone, Apni Party president Syed Altaf Bukhari, J&K Congress president Waqar Rasool and Aam Aadmi Party leaders.

> **This will make voters from Kashmir as well as Jammu irrelevant**
> MEHBOOBA MUFTI

The meeting is scheduled for August 22 at the residence of Dr. Abdullah.

"All political parties are being contacted for attending the meeting on the non-local voter issue," CPI(M) leader and Gupkar Alliance spokesman M.Y. Tarigami said.

There is a growing resentment among regional parties in J&K to allow non-locals, who work or stay in J&K, to be registered as voters for the upcoming Assembly elections.

Former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti appealed to the political parties of the country to speak up against the measures and policy of the BJP in J&K, while describing the latest EC decision as "pre-poll rigging".

She said the EC is allowing 25 lakh outsiders to vote in J&K in the next Assembly election.

"This will make voters from Kashmir as well as Jammu irrelevant. This is a step to disenfranchise locals," Ms. Mufti.

She said it was the policy of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to have free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir that allowed people to repose faith in the electoral process in J&K.

HC orders FIR against Shahnawaz Hussain

BJP leader has been accused of rape

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ordered the registration of an FIR against BJP leader Syed Shahnawaz Hussain on a woman's complaint of rape at a farmhouse in south Delhi's Chhatarpur area in April 2018.

Justice Asha Menon also questioned the Delhi police for showing "complete reluctance" to even register an FIR to put the investigation machinery into operation.

The judge, in her August 17 judgment, ordered the police to complete its investigation and submit a detailed report before the concerned trial court within three months.

The woman had, on June 21, 2018, filed a complaint alleging the commission of offence rape by Mr. Hussain, following which the trial court had called for an Action Taken Report (ATR). The Delhi police in its report, however, concluded that as per the inquiry, the allegations were not found to be substantiated.

Pak. prisoner killed in weapon snatching case near IB in Jammu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

A Pakistani militant prisoner was killed and a policeman injured near the International Border (IB) in Jammu's Arnia during an investigation regarding a weapon dropping case.

The death sparked a protest by a section of inmates inside the Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu.

According to the police, Pakistani militant Mohammad Ali Hussain alias Qasim from Pakistan was a commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and was operating from the jail.

"Hussain and a police constable were injured during a weapon recovery operation by the police in Arnia Sector at Toph village on the IB," the police said. The injured terrorist later succumbed, the police added.

The police said the jail inmate was involved in the weapon dropping case registered on February 24 this year.

The accused, according to the police, admitted his role in the Arnia weapon drop case. The police added that he had also disclosed two locations where arms and ammunition dropped by drone had been buried and concealed.

"In order to recover the weapons, a police team along with a concerned magistrate went to the spot one after the other. At Toph village in the Phallian Mandal area, a packet of arms, ammunition and explosives was recovered," the police said.

The accused attacked and snatched a service rifle when the packet was being opened, the police said.

"He fired at the police party and tried to flee from the spot," the police added.

INDIRA GANDHI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Government of Puducherry Institution run by Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Medical College Society)
Vazhudavur Main Road, Kathirkamam, Puducherry-605 009.
Ph:0413-2277545, 2277543, email: puducherrymedicalcollege@gmail.com

No.254/IGMC&RI/Estt.II/Recruit/Dir/Dean/MS/2022/2650 Dt. 17.08.2022

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the posts of **DIRECTOR / DEAN / MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT ON DIRECT RECRUITMENT / DEPUTATION / CONTRACT BASIS AND SENIOR RESIDENTS ON CONTRACT BASIS in Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Puducherry.**

The details regarding eligibility criteria such as age limit, educational qualification, experience, scale of pay and other conditions etc., can be viewed in the official website www.igmcri.edu.in. The prescribed application form can be downloaded from the said website.

The last date for receipt of duly filled in application is on 09.09.2022 by 05.00 p.m. The shortlisted candidates only will be called for interview.

No.228/DIP/AD(Press)/2022-23 **DIRECTOR I/C**

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Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: up to 13.00 Hrs on 26.08.2022. For further details visit website: **www.apgenco.gov.in or https://etender.apgenco.gov.in/irj/portal**

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e-PROCUREMENT ABRIDGE TENDER NOTICE
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Please visit website **https://bdltenders.abcprocure.com** for further details. Bids should be submitted online only. **"corrigendum if any shall be issued through our e-portal only and not in Newspapers"**
"Bidders (Civil contractors/Service Providers/Sub-contractors/suppliers) are Requested to apply for online Vendor Registration in BDL website **http://172.25.1.64/bdldesign/login.php** for business prospects.
Deputy General Manager (Corp Comm)

Government of Tamil Nadu
TAMIL NADU URBAN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT BOARD
No. 5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 600005, Tamil Nadu, India.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)
(Consulting Services – Individual Selection)

Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB), Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project financed by the World Bank. TNUHDB now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services for the below mentioned assignments for TNUHDB under the World Bank financed Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project.

Selection of Individual Consultants:
(1) Community Officers at TNUHDB Division level- 10 Nos
(2) Community Development Officers at TNUHDB Circle level – 6 Nos

The detailed REOI and Terms of Reference are available in the websites – **www.tnuhdb.tn.gov.in** and **www.tenders.tn.gov.in. The Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted for each assignment separately.** Last date and time for submission of EOI is **05.09.2022 up to 5:45 PM.** The EOI shall be sent to **Chief Community Development Officer, Project Monitoring Unit - World Bank Project, Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board, No.5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai – 600 005, Tamil Nadu, India.**
E-mail: tnuhdbprocurement@gmail.com.

Chief Community Development Officer,
Project Monitoring Unit
DIPR/ 3806 /TENDER/2022

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

ROURKELA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
UDITNAGAR, ROURKELA (Odisha), Pin-769012
E-mail ID : rourkelamunicipality@gmail.com, Tel: 0661-2500388

RFP No. 10458 **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** Date: 17.08.22

Rourkela Municipal Corporation invites Request for Proposal (RFP) in Double covers from reputed NGOs/CBOs/Agencies/Joint Ventures for Providing Sanitation Services in the Designated Zones under Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC).

The sealed RFP document supported by relevant details and proof of their eligibility is to be submitted in closed covers addressed to the Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation, Uditnagar, Rourkela, Dist.-Sundargarh (Odisha), PIN-769012 on or before **1.00 PM 08.09.2022** through Speed Post / Registered Post / Courier only. The complete RFP document can be downloaded from the RMC website **(www.rmc.nic.in)** from **18.08.2022** onwards.

Any changes/correction/corrigendum in respect the above shall be placed on RMC website only. All bidders are requested to go through the website before submission of proposal.

RMC reserves the right to reject any or all the RFP without assigning any reason thereof.

Commissioner,
Rourkela Municipal Corporation
C-1003 OIPR-13131/11/0084/2223

होटल प्रबन्ध और खानपान प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
(स्वायत्त निकाय, पर्यटन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND CATERING TECHNOLOGY
(AN AUTONOMOUS BODY UNDER MINISTRY OF TOURISM, GOVT. OF INDIA)
KOVALAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695527, Phone: 0471-2480283
E-mail : principal@ihmctkovalam.org, Website : www.ihmctkovalam.ac.in

NOTIFICATION
ADMISSION TO FIRST YEAR OF 2-YEAR M.Sc. IN HOSPITALITY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION – 2022-23

For details (Eligibility criteria & Application Form), please visit: www.ihmctkovalam.ac.in
Last date to apply - 26th August 2022
Principal

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OPSC follows a robust transparent and merit-based process in all recruitments. Any assurance for selection by unscrupulous elements should not only be ignored but be brought to our notice for remedial measures.

Please inform to the following numbers.
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0671-2304090
opsc@nic.in

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[illegible]

opsc@nic-in

D-136 OIPR-12002/11/0136/2223

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग द्वितीय जोधपुर (मुख्यालय बाड़मेर)

क्रमांक— 1163 दिनांक— 10.08.2022

NIB No. PWD2223A1575

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SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED CIRCLE NCR ALWAR
PHED CAMPUS, MANU MARG ALWAR (RAJ.)
E-Mail- sencr.alw.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

No. 2520-2538 Date- 10-08-2022

(Corrigendum No.-01 of NIT No. 144-158/2022-23)

Bids for Works of Construction of Source PLI of Rising Main & Distribution Pipe Line with FHTC, Construction of Reservoir for Various villages under Rural Div. I NCR Alwar are invited earlier by this office. The last date of submission of Bid from the interested bidders is extender up to Dt. 19.09.2022 up to 05:00 PM due to corrigendum in the Tender Document. The approximate value of procurement is Rs. 2586.42 Lacs.

Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the portal (http://sppp.raj.nic.in http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state and https://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.

UBN: PHE2223WSOB04885, PHE2223WSOB04886, PHE2223WSOB04887, PHE2223WSOB04888, PHE2223WSOB04889, PHE2223WSOB04890, PHE2223WSOB04891, PHE2223WSOB04892, PHE2223WSOB04893, PHE2223WSOB04902, PHE2223WSOB04903, PHE2223WSOB04904, PHE2223WSOB04905, PHE2223WSOB04906, PHE2223WSOB04907

L.P. Bairwa
DIPR/C/10656 Superintending Engineer

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
222313 003002	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 4200 GAR of Indonesian origin	03.09.2022
222313 003030	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp-Hardwood 80 for Unit-I & II	02.09.2022
222313 003031	Procurement of Imported Furnace Oil for Unit-I	03.09.2022
Email:	222313003002 - purchase.fuel@tnpl.co.in 222313003030 & 3031 - purchase.pulp@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed Terms & conditions, Quantity, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in.**

DIPR/3815/Tender/2022 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

राष्ट्रीय मात्स्यिकी विकास बोर्ड
National Fisheries Development Board
मत्स्यपालन विभाग/Department of Fisheries
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय / Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
भारत सरकार / Government of India
Pillar No: 235, PVNR Expressway, SVPNPA Post, Hyderabad-500 052
Phone No. 040- 24000201; Fax No: 040-2401 5568; Mail: info.nfdb@nic.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
'O&M' of Phase-1 and 'DBFOT' of Phase-2 of the 'Integrated Coastal Aquaculture Facilities' Mulapolam Village, Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh in PPP Mode

NFDB/Division I/Mulapolam Land Development/2020-2021 Dt. 19-08-2022

National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB); Dept. of Fisheries (DoF); Govt. of India (GoI), intends to select an experienced and capable 'Private Entity' for the 'Operation & Management' (O&M) of 'Phase-1' and Design, Build, Finance, Operate & Transfer (DBFOT) of 'Phase-2' of the **Coastal Aquaculture Facilities** proposed in **70.00 Acres** of 'Beachfront Land Parcel' with Fresh Water, Seawater & Brackish Water Resources with an estimated 'Project Cost' of **Rs.120.00 Crores** at Mulapolam, Srikakulam Dist., Andhra Pradesh in PPP Mode.

Issue of RFP Document & Pre bid Meeting:
- RFP Document can be downloaded from www.nfdb.gov.in; www.dof.gov.in; and https://www.eprocure.gov.in from **19.08.2022 to 22.09.2022**
- **Pre-Bid Meeting: 02.09.2022 at 11.00 Hrs. (IST) at NFDB, Hyderabad.**

Submission of Bids: **Online only** Bidders shall upload their bids at the 'GoI' **eProcurement Portal:** https://www.eprocure.gov.in on or before **23.09.2022** before **16.00 Hrs (IST)**
- 'Hard Copies of the Technical Bid' shall be submitted for reference on or before **27.09.2022** before **16.00 Hrs (IST)** at the O/o. The Chief Executive, NFDB, Pillar No.: 235, PVNR Expressway, SVPNPA Post, Hyderabad-500052, Telangana State, India.

Amendments/Addendum/Corrigendum to the RFP, if any, shall be posted only on the NFDB Website: www.nfdb.gov.in; DoF Website: www.dof.gov.in; and GoI eProcurement Portal https://www.eprocure.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Executive, NFDB

'We need to stay alert, get vaccinated'

NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul urges people to take precaution dose and follow safety norms

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The COVID virus is still around, V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, said on Thursday and added that "we can't predict changes in the number of cases so we need to stay alert and get vaccination cover".

The warning comes close on the heels of World Health Organisation's alert stating that the world should not lower its guard against the virus just yet.

Dr. Paul suggested that people should protect themselves and take precautions in the form of COVID-appropriate behaviour and vaccination.

"Those who have taken a second dose and exceeded six months should take the precautionary dose soon. We have enough vaccines and those eligible should ensure that they take the vaccination. Those with co-morbidity should avail of the facility immediately," Dr. Paul said.

Better safety: People have been told to take the precaution dose six months after the second dose. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

At higher risk

A recent paper published in the *Lancet Psychiatry* journal, which looked at 1.25 million patient records, has now confirmed the previous findings that COVID-19 can increase the risk for some neurological and psychiatric conditions in the first six months after infection.

The present study suggests that some of these risks can last for at least two years.

The study further said that risk profiles and trajectories vary in children compared with adults and older adults, and differ between variants of SARS-CoV-2.

The comparable risks seen after the emergence of Omicron indicate that the neurological and psychiatric burden of COVID-19 might continue even with variants that lead to otherwise less severe disease, said the study.

Different trajectories

It added that post-COVID neurological and psychiatric outcomes followed different risk trajectories – the risk of cognitive deficit, dementia, psychotic disorder, and epilepsy or seizures remained increased for two years after a COVID-19 diagnosis, while the risks of other diagnoses (notably, mood and anxiety disorders) subsided early and showed no overall excess over the two-year follow-up.

Children are not at increased risk of mood or anxiety disorders (even over the first six months) but share adults' risk of several other diagnoses.

"These findings are relevant for policy makers involved in anticipating and addressing the health burden of the pandemic, for researchers seeking to identify the mechanisms underpinning brain sequelae of COVID-19, and for patients and clinicians wishing to know the neurological and psychiatric risks following SARS-CoV-2 infections," noted the study.

Maulana Azad fellows get scholarships after 9 months

Worries surface among students over future of scholarship

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After a direction from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office, M. Phil and Ph.D. research scholars who were availing the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF), have started getting their scholarships after a delay of more than nine months.

Similarly, thousands of scholars under the National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities (NFPwD), National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste (NFSC) and National Fellowship for Other Backward Classes (NFOBC) who had not received their fellowships since April would also get the scholarship within a week, said secretary of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment under the SJE Ministry, R. Subrahmanyam.

The scholars getting MANF told *The Hindu* that they received the amount on Thursday.

A scholar selected for the NFPwD said that they and another scholar had received partial payments of the pending amount. However, it was not clear whether all scholars of the batch and of other batches had also received the fellowships.

The UGC will remain as a nodal agency till September 30.

The delay started after a change in rules by the Finance Ministry that the Ministries that fund these fellowships should appoint a Central Nodal Agency or directly transfer the funds into the beneficiaries' accounts replacing the UGC.

Vouching for UGC

Ishfaq Majid, a researcher from Central University of Gujarat, said he is worried about the future of the scholarship.

"After September 30th, when the Ministry of Minority Affairs will start the process of appointing a new nodal agency, the process will take at least a month and there are chances of fellowships being delayed further. It will be good for all if UGC remains the nodal agency of Maulana Azad National Fellowship," Mr. Majid said.

IN BRIEF

Raut pleads 'not guilty' in defamation case

MUMBAI

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut pleaded "not guilty" on Thursday before a magistrate on a defamation case filed by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya's wife. Mr. Raut, currently lodged at Arthur Road Jail in a money laundering case for alleged involvement in redeveloping a chawl, was produced via video conferencing. Metropolitan Magistrate P.L. Mokashi adjourned the case to September 19.

CAA protests: man held for rioting gets bail

NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday gave bail to Azahar Khan, accused of rioting, manhandling policemen and damaging public property during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in Uttar Pradesh in 2020. Seeking bail, Mr. Khan said he was a former zilla panchayat chairman, politically active and had to participate in demonstrations which led to cases being lodged against him in past.

After schools, Atmanand colleges in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government on Thursday said it would set up English-medium colleges across the State. "It has been proposed that in the first phase, about 10 Swami Atmanand English Medium Adarsh Colleges will be opened in the major cities of the State for the forthcoming academic session in June 2023," a government press release said. Plans were on to open such colleges in all district headquarters in three years, it added.

Don't misuse GST law to make arrests, says Centre

Consider factors in each case, urges Revenue Department

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Revenue Department in separate communiques issued on Wednesday has instructed GST officials to "not summon top officials of companies for routine matters and don't arrest taxpayers unless there is evidence of mens rea or intent to evade taxes".

The bid to rein in the misuse of arrest provisions under the Central Goods and Services Tax (GST) law follows a Supreme Court verdict last August that said: just because an arrest can be made under a law, does not mean it must be made.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has laid down detailed guidelines for arrests under the GST law, including the conditions to be met before an arrest is made, the procedure for making arrests and post-arrest formalities.

Conditions apply

Urging officers not to make arrests in a routine and mechanical manner, the Board has asked them to consider several factors in each and every case, including whether the person concerned is the mastermind or key operator behind the fraudulent input credits or other violations of the law.

"Approval to arrest must only be granted only where the intent to evade tax or commit acts leading to availment of wrongful input tax credit or fraudulent refund of tax or failure to pay amount of tax collected... is evident and mens rea or guilty mind is palpable," the Board has instructed.

Arrests should not be resorted to in cases of a technical nature, arising out of different interpretations of the law, it added.

Bustards adapt to produce 2-egg clutch

New behaviour, a result of increased feed after excessive rain, hailed as a record

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

The perceived beliefs and recorded observations of egg laying habit of Great Indian Bustard (GIB) have changed after the recent excessive rains in western Rajasthan. The critically endangered bird species has adopted an altogether new behaviour of giving clutch of two eggs at a time after getting additional protein diet during the monsoon season.

Curious case: High incidence of the behaviour, with the signs of an evolving habit, had been observed for the first time.

Environmentalists in Rajasthan have hailed it as a new record, as all experts had been reporting a clutch of single egg by GIB for more than a century. Scientists working on ex situ breeding of these endangered birds have discovered the new proclivity in Jaisalmer district's Desert National Park (DNP).

Four female GIBs laid two eggs at a time during the current rainy season in the DNP, while two others were observed laying clutches of two eggs each earlier in the 2020 season. Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India's (WII) scientist Sutirtha Dutta, who is leading the project for breeding of the rare species, told *The Hindu* that six nests with two eggs each had been detected so far in the DNP.

Dr. Dutta said 5% to 10% of the female GIBs had been detected in the past laying two eggs each, but the high incidence, with the signs of an evolving habit, had been observed for the first time. "The natural feed for birds gets produced in abundance whenever it rains excessively in DNP," he said. The rains exceeded 20 mm by mid-August in Jaisalmer district.

Aimed at preserving the GIBs whose population has reduced to less than 150 in the wild, the breeding project focuses on spatial prioritisation, risk characterisation and conservation management with the endangered species.

Postcards bear witness to memories of a fateful 1947 day

Simple prompt at 'March to Freedom' exhibition brings out untold stories of India's first Independence Day

BISHWANATH GHOSH
KOLKATA

At an exhibition, one of the several taking place in Kolkata to mark 75 years of India's Independence, the organisers placed a bundle of postcards and a handful of pens on a large table and asked visitors to write down their family memories of that defining moment in history. What has emerged is a still-growing collection of heart-warming as well as heart-wrenching stories that may not be found in history books but are still a valuable part of history.

"My late grandfather's account of 15th August is rather funny," wrote Gangotri Chattopadhyay from Singur in her message. "A bunch of village kids with no money or resources stole a bunch of *gamchha* (thin cotton towel) and hoisted them on a bunch of sticks and ran through the rice fields, overjoyed about a free India. It is the spirit that counts."

Give and take: The Indian Museum has urged visitors to share their thoughts. • @INDIANMUSEUMKOL

Ms. Chattopadhyay's is among the nearly 600 postcards that the DAG, or Delhi Art Gallery, has collected so far from its ongoing exhibition, 'March to Freedom', being held at the Indian Museum. The exhibition, showcasing 200 years of art, began on July 23 and will end on September 18.

In one gallery, a poster asks: "Do you know what your parents were doing on August 15, 1947? What are your family memories or experiences from the time of India's independence?" The response has been unexpected, what with fresh blank postcards and pens at hand.

Diyaa's family memories go back to a painful period before Independence – the Bengal famine of 1943 and the Second World War – when her paternal grandmother, a little girl at the time, remembered the family eating rice with salt because everything else was unaffordable. The grandmother would narrate such stories "in the flicker of candlelight back when power cuts plagued Bengal in the early 2000s".

"At first, I wondered whether people would respond thoughtfully to the prompt but I was pleasantly surprised to see how much care people had taken to record their family stories. Like we had hoped, what emerges is the story of ordinary people who don't find a place in our history books but who grappled with the idea of becoming citizens of a new nation in myriad ways," DAG's Sumona Chakravarty told *The Hindu*.

Respite for TMC leader's daughter in TET row

Court recalls order for appearance

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday recalled its order directing that arrested Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Anubrata Mondal's daughter and five others appear before it. The allegation against the TMC leader's daughter Sukanya Mondal and others was that they were given jobs as primary teachers in State-run schools without qualifying in the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET).

Earlier, Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay had directed Ms. Mondal and five others to be present before the court. During the hearing, Justice Gangopadhyay said the supplementary affidavit of the petitioner, on the basis of which the earlier order was passed on Wednesday, could not be used in the proceedings.

The court said the petitioner could file a separate case with the allegations. With the development, the judge dispensed with the appearance of the six persons, including Ms. Mondal.

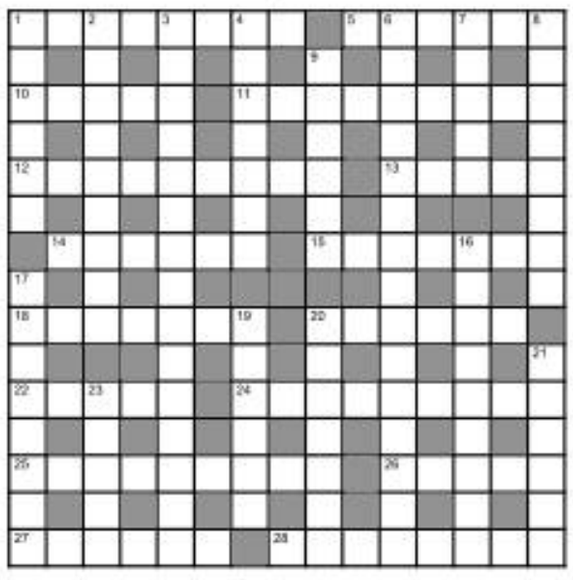
TMC leadership expressed reservations over the development. TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that earlier the supplementary affidavit was considered so important that these persons were asked to appear and on Thursday the order was recalled.

TH CROSSWORD + 13639

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 Man shot around noon in English city (8)
5 Steamer filled with synthetic garments (6)
10 Drink knocked back by old man in Russian city (5)
11 Bachelor exiting villa with a babe, possibly unattached (9)
12 Most slimy European player regarded as posing a serious threat (6,3)
13 Cheeky boy framing hot poster of attractive person (3-2)
14 Reckless plan to catch slippery cad (6)
15 Touches with desire in brief interlude (7)
18 Separate, keeping tiny amount of money and ring (7)
20 Woman set out plates (6)
22 Spies about to steal extremely sophisticated device to detect submarines (5)
24 Scared to clash with firm wife, one immune to criticism (6,3)
25 Pass the summer in a manor, cuddling diva heartily (9)
26 Learning to catch barramundi finally in river (5)
27 Standard of ginseng cultivated, not good (6)
28 Poorest in shelter about to perish after onset of epidemic (8)

Down

1 Attractive date for lady providing light entertainment (6)
2 Voodoo leader sprinted, possessed by spirit going around galleries (9)
3 Calculating how many are chewing noisily? (6,9)
4 Wander around Germany with most accurate travel guide (4,3)
6 Emir sleeps with a lady slyly? I will not tell anyone (2,4,3,6)
7 Murderer throttling baron in chalet (5)
8 Foolish husband enthralled by escort shaking hips (8)
9 Batsman nervously taking stance (6)
16 Male cutting heretic, a barbaric offence motivated by prejudice (4,5)
17 Wonder about right feed for large primate (5,3)
19 Dark face masks, small and medium (6)
20 Bury a stolen crate slyly in spot (7)
21 Most affected by heartless wife during trial (6)
23 Cleans stallion up outside entrance to stable (5)

SUDOKU

			1	7		2		
					5		8	6
5	1						4	
	7				1			9
			9		3			
4			7				3	
	4						2	8
7	5		6					
		9		3	7			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13638

T	I	M	E	B	O	M	B	S
O		D		A		A	S	H
R	O	U	G	H		N	U	K
P		S		A		A		I
O	V	E	R	S	I	G	H	T
R		P		A		U		O
	M	A	N	I	L	A		W
P		D		N				
U	P	S	I	D	E	S		C
T				O		T		O
U	N	P	I	N		I	S	L
P		A		E		F		O
J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M
O		I		I		E		B
B	I	S	S	A	U		F	O

S	C	R	A	P	S			
	H		L		P			
N	U	K	U	A	L	O	F	A
	R		N		R			
L	A	G	O	S				
	O		O		I			
E	T	S	U	I	T			
	T		L		Y			
C	O	E	V	A	L			
O		A		N		O		
I	S	L	A	M	A	B	A	D
O		A		A		I		
L	O	T	T	O				
I		B		I		U		
F	O	I	E	G	R	A	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	4	3	2	8	9	7	6	5
7	6	5	4	3	1	8	9	2
9	8	2	6	7	5	1	3	4
3	1	8	7	9	4	2	5	6
6	2	7	3	5	8	9	4	1
5	9	4	1	6	2	3	7	8
8	7	6	5	1	3	4	2	9
4	5	1	9	2	7	6	8	3
2	3	9	8	4	6	5	1	7

FAITH

Azhwars, Upanishad truths

Learning the import of Azhwars' pasurams is sure to lead us closer to God, is the word of the acharyas in the Visishtadvaita tradition, pointed out Asuri Sri Madhavachariar in a discourse. For instance, in the Tiruvaimozhi, Nammazhwar engages in Brahma vichara, in the manner of the Upanishads, wherein questions of philosophical import such as 'Who is Brahman? What is His nature? How is He to be known? How can we seek Him?' etc., are raised and answered. While the esoteric nature of the Upanishad statements are not easily understood by all, acharyas show that Azhwars have been successful in making every jivatma come closer to God.

In the first few hymns of Tiruvaimozhi, Nammazhwar explains the concept of Brahman both from the philosophical aspect as well as His relevant all pervasiveness and closeness with His creation at all times. Brahman is the only one, unique, supreme, Advitiyam, with no second to Him. No one can be equal or higher to Him. He is the sole ruler, and controller of this vast, complex and splendid creation. He is the Paramatma and the entire Prakriti constituted of the achetana and the chetana truths form His body. He is the Lord of all jivatmas, right from Brahma to the smallest ant.

Now Azhwar wonders how God, who is free of all doshas, can be present in this prakriti that is full of doshas. Or how He can be the indweller or antaryami in the jivatma whose sarira comprising the gross and the subtle aspects again has many defects. He then understands that though He pervades His entire creation He remains distinct from it. The faults and doshas in Prakriti do not affect Him. If we attempt to know about Him from our preceptors, we will get drawn to Him and develop bhakti and seek His feet to get liberated.

BRI projects are slow, but lending rises

In the first half of 2022, China's investments and contracts in 147 countries amounted to $28.4 billion

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China's investments in infrastructure projects under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have declined while Beijing's short and medium-term assistance to partner countries, some of which are dealing with rising debt levels, is increasing, according to recent research highlighting a shift in China's approach to overseas lending.

In the first half of 2022, China's engagement through financial investments and contracts in 147 countries amounted to $28.4 billion, up by 47% from the previous year, said a report from the Green Finance and Development Centre (GFDC) at Shanghai's Fudan University. Of this, $11.8 billion was through investments and $16.5 billion through project contracts.

This marked a decline from $48.5 billion in the same period in 2019. Since the launch of the BRI in 2013, the report estimated China's total engagement at $932 billion, with $561 billion in construction contracts and the rest in other investments.

The report noted three clear trends in the BRI: a growing role for Chinese State-owned Enterprises; the average size for project deals falling, from $558 million in 2021 to $325 million last year; and an increasingly uneven spread of engagement.

Shifting engagement: A file photo of Gwadar Port, which is a part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key project under the Belt and Road Initiative. •REUTERS

Several countries "saw no Chinese engagement" in the first half of the year, including Russia, Sri Lanka and Egypt, while the figure in Pakistan was down by 56%.

At the same time, China's short and medium-term lending to several BRI partners has rapidly risen, according to research from the AidData research lab reported by *Bloomberg* this month.

Loans to Pakistan

In the past five years, China "made nearly $26 billion in short and medium-term loans to Pakistan and Sri Lanka" alone, marking a shift in its overseas engagement "from funding infrastructure toward providing emergency relief."

On Thursday, China's Foreign Ministry said, commenting on the GFDC report noting falling engagement in Pakistan, that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor "is an important pilot program under the BRI" that had "brought tangible benefits for socio-economic development of people's lives."

"China will continue to work with Pakistan to ensure that the cooperation outcomes are better delivered to the Pakistani people," spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

Mr. Wang added that as of this year, China had signed BRI documents with 149 countries with an investment volume "of over 1 trillion Yuan" ($147 billion), flagging the China-Laos railway, bridge in Serbia, and Gwadar port as landmark projects that had been "well implemented".

'China may step up coercion of Taiwan'

U.S. announces trade talks with Taipei

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ASSOCIATED PRESS
TAIPEI

The United States expects China to ramp up its military, diplomatic and economic "coercion" of Taiwan, its top envoy in East Asia said on Thursday, after Beijing's unprecedented drills around the island it claims as its own.

Daniel Kritenbrink

The Chinese military has staged days of air and sea exercises in the Taiwan Strait after visits by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and a congressional delegation to the self-ruled island.

Washington's top envoy in East Asia on Thursday said Beijing will likely ramp up pressure on Taiwan in the coming months after the drills.

"While our policy has not changed, what has changed is Beijing's growing coercion," Daniel Kritenbrink, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said.

Washington believes the drive to press the island's government will carry on in the coming "weeks and months", he added.

China's "words and actions are deeply destabilising. They risk miscalculation and threaten the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait," Mr. Kritenbrink said.

"These actions are part of an intensified pressure campaign... to intimidate and coerce Taiwan and undermine its resilience," he said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. on Thursday announced plans for formal trade talks with Taiwan by the autumn in a show of support for the democracy in response to China's drills, despite not holding official ties with the government in Taipei.

The negotiations would cover a variety of areas, including agriculture, digital trade, regulatory practices and removing trade barriers, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said.

The talks "will deepen our trade and investment ties, advance mutual trade priorities based on shared values, and promote innovation and inclusive economic growth for our workers and businesses," said Deputy United States Trade Representative Sarah Bianchi.

'New page'

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry welcomed the trade talk plans, which it said will lead to a "new page" in relations with the U.S.

"We welcome this opportunity to deepen economic collaboration between our two freedom-loving countries while shaping a new model for trade cooperation in the Indo-Pacific," the Ministry said.

"China has always opposed any official exchanges between any country and the Taiwan region of China," Beijing's Commerce Ministry spokeswoman Shu Jueting told reporters on Thursday.

China's exercises included firing multiple ballistic missiles into waters off Taiwan and it was the first time China has taken such a step since the mid-1990s.

Israel shuts Palestinian rights groups

ASSOCIATED PRESS
RAMALLAH

Israel conducted searches at the offices of several Palestinian advocacy groups it had previously designated as terrorist organisations, sealing entrance doors and leaving notices declaring them closed, the groups said on Thursday.

With the raids, Israel broadened its campaign against the civil society groups, which it has outlawed over claims that they have ties to militant groups, a charge they deny. Israel has provided little evidence to back up the accusations. The European Union has rejected Israel's charge s against the groups, citing a lack of evidence.

Israel has claimed some of these groups had ties to the militant Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a secular, left-wing movement with a political party as well as an armed wing that has carried out deadly attacks against Israelis. Israel outlawed the groups last year over the claim.

Shawan Jabarin, director of al-Haq, one of the targeted groups, confirmed that forces raided the office. Mr. Jabarin said his staffers are still examining whether any documents were confiscated.

Israeli troops "came, blew up the door, got inside, and messed with the files," he said. They then sealed the entrance to the office, he said.

Rights defenders have described Israel's moves against the groups as part of a decades-long crackdown on political activists in the occupied territories.

In July, nine EU member states said Israel hasn't backed up it's allegations.

China tests air defence system near India border

The footage of the tests, in the high altitude Karakoram plateau region, was broadcast on August 15

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China's State media has broadcast what it said were tests of an updated short-range surface-to-air defence missile system, carried out by the Xinjiang military command in the "Karakoram plateau region" near the India border.

The footage of the tests, in a high altitude region above 4,500 m, was broadcast on August 15, and "appeared to be HQ-17A air defence missiles, part of an integrated system that can fit in a single vehicle," the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* reported.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed military observer as saying the "show of deterrence" was possibly aimed at India-U.S. high-altitude exercises to be held in October. The live-fire drill was broadcast on State channel China Central Television (CCTV) on the morning of August 15 as India marked the 75th anniversary of Independence.

The CCTV report said the "new type of surface-to-air missile" hit a low-flying target plane. Yue Gang, a retired People's Liberation Army (PLA) Colonel, told the *Post* the drills "involved a new type of HQ-17A short-range air defence missile, part of a system commissioned by the Xinjiang command in May last year". "Improvements have also been made to the performance of its search and radar tracking ability," he said.

A file photo of PLA soldiers and tanks along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). •AFP

"Now the PLA is carrying out high-profile fire strike exercises on the plateau, with the aim of deterrence and countermeasures," he added.

China's State media have continued to highlight the PLA's efforts to improve infrastructure along the western borders and particularly in forward areas close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC), even as the ongoing talks between India and China to resolve the stand-off along the LAC appear to have reached a deadlock.

The PLA has so far shown little inclination in restoring the status quo prior to its April 2020 transgressions, with talks yet to make headway in the remaining friction areas in Hot Springs, Demchok and Depsang.

U.K. rail workers strike again as inflation intensifies crisis

No resolution to dispute over low wages, working conditions

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Thousands of train workers in Britain staged a new round of strikes on Thursday, paralysing rail service across the country in an escalating dispute over pay and working conditions exacerbated by a deepening cost-of-living crisis.

Only around one in five trains ran across the U.K. as a result of the walkout by union members, who have already staged multiple strikes in recent months. A strike planned for Friday is expected to affect most of the London Underground subway network as well as bus service in the capital, while another walkout on Saturday is set to disrupt national train travel again.

Mick Lynch, leader of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union, said rail workers, like socores of ther public sector employees in the U.K., are struggling to cope with soaring food and fuel prices.

Eye on reforms: Railway workers at a picket line at Waterloo Station in London on Thursday. •AFP

He warned of "a wave of solidarity action" affecting multiple sectors after official figures on Wednesday showed that the country's inflation rate jumped to a new 40-year high of 10.1% in July, higher than analysts' forecast of 9.8%.

Unions representing postal, port and aviation workers have also announced strikes as the cost-of-living crisis bites into wages. In Scotland, garbage collectors and recycling workers in the capital city of Edinburgh began a 11-day strike on Thursday, saying a pay rise offer of 3.5% was far from enough to battle rising bills.

"People in this country are fed up with low pay. Many millions of people have not had a proper pay deal for decades," Mr. Lynch said on Thursday.

Japan can talk to creditors, says Colombo

REUTERS
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka will ask Japan to invite the Indian Ocean island's main creditor nations, including China and India, to talks on bilateral debt restructuring as it seeks a way out of its worst economic crisis in decades, its President said on Thursday.

"Someone needs to call in, invite the main creditor nations. We will ask Japan to do it," President Ranil Wickremesinghe told Reuters in an interview, adding that he would travel to Tokyo next month to meet Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people off India's southern tip, is facing its most severe financial crisis since independence from Britain in 1948, resulting from the combined impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic mismanagement.

Left with scant foreign exchange reserves, stalling imports of essentials including fuel and medicines, ordinary Sri Lankans have been battling crippling shortages for months amid sky-rocketing inflation and a devalued currency.

Udeeshan Jonas, chief strategist at Colombo-based investment bank CAL Group, said Mr. Wickremesinghe's outreach to Japan could help secure additional funds after once a restructuring plan is agreed.

"As one of the Quad countries, Japan can bring India and the rest of the key bilateral creditors together and Sri Lanka can work on a restructuring plan that will cover a large part of the debt," Mr. Jonas said, referring to the Quad grouping of the United States, Japan, Australia and India.

"Only China will be on the other side," he said.

Kabul mosque blast toll rises to 21: police

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUL

A bombing at a mosque in the Afghan capital of Kabul during evening prayers killed at least 21 people, including a prominent cleric, and wounded at least 33 others, eyewitnesses and police said on Thursday.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack on Wednesday night. Several children were reported to be among the wounded.

The mosque bombing comes just two days after the anniversary of the fall of Kabul on Aug. 15, 2021.

The slain cleric was Mullah Amir Mohammad Kabuli, an eyewitness said.

Zelensky hosts talks with UN chief, Erdogan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

Turkey's leader and the UN chief met with with President Volodymr Zelensky on Thursday in a high-powered bid to ratchet down a war raging for nearly six months.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he would follow up with Russian President Vladimir Putin, given that most of the matters discussed would require the Kremlin's agreement.

With the meetings held at such a high level – it was the first visit to Ukraine by Mr. Erdogan since the war broke out, and the second by Mr. Guterres – some had hoped for breakthroughs, if not toward an overall peace, then at least on specific issues. But none was apparent.

Meeting in the western city of Lviv, the leaders discussed expanding exchanges of prisoners of war and arranging for UN atomic energy experts to visit and help secure Europe's biggest nuclear power plant, which is in the middle of fierce fighting.

Mr. Erdogan has positioned himself as a go-between in efforts to stop the fighting. While Turkey is a member of NATO, its wobbly economy is reliant on Russia for trade, and it has tried to steer a middle course between the two combatants.

MARKET WATCH

	18-08-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,298	0.06
US Dollar	79.64	-0.23
Gold	52,340	–
Brent oil	95.82	3.47

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	833.05	8.30
Apollo Hosp	4266.65	-39.10
Asian Paints	3535.35	11.65
Axis Bank	765.05	-7.05
Bajaj Auto	4060.65	-7.25
Bajaj Finserv	16805.90	-34.40
Bajaj Finance	7488.25	-38.85
Bharti Airtel	733.20	10.25
BPCL	347.05	-6.10
Britannia Ind	3693.05	-12.15
Cipla	1032.20	6.45
Coal India	221.75	0.10
Divis Lab	3743.60	-4.80
Dr Reddys Lab	4225.10	-90.80
Eicher Motors	3411.40	13.80
Grasim Ind	1813.75	-2.80
HCL Tech	973.50	-7.10
HDFC	2497.95	6.35
HDFC Bank	1511.70	1.80
HDFC Life	586.75	-2.60
Hero MotoCorp	2908.20	-5.25
Hindalco	438.05	-0.90
Hind Unilever	2682.05	-2.60
ICICI Bank	885.10	1.85
Indusind Bank	1105.10	16.50
Infosys	1582.95	-23.30
ITC	315.65	3.10
JSW Steel	673.40	0.80
Kotak Bank	1904.50	64.80
L&T	1894.55	38.85
M&M	1261.15	-13.10
Maruti Suzuki	8947.70	3.35
Nestle India Ltd	19557.65	-177.65
NTPC	160.80	-0.65
ONGC	135.55	-4.10
PowerGrid Corp	231.35	2.85
Reliance Ind	2661.30	-3.85
SBI Life	1324.20	18.85
State Bank	532.35	4.20
Shree Cement	21622.50	201.55
Sun Pharma	916.75	-4.05
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	807.85	14.35
Tata Motors	484.80	-0.60
Tata Steel	112.55	0.05
TCS	3381.25	-19.85
Tech Mahindra	1105.15	0.65
Titan	2478.70	-13.50
UltraTech Cement	6703.95	94.10
UPL	773.95	-16.55
Wipro	435.05	-8.00

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 18

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.47	79.79
Euro	80.79	81.12
British Pound	95.86	96.25
Japanese Yen (100)	58.79	59.03
Chinese Yuan	11.70	11.75
Swiss Franc	83.37	83.71
Singapore Dollar	57.51	57.76
Canadian Dollar	61.66	61.91
Malaysian Ringitt	17.76	17.86
Australian Dollar	55.27	55.50

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

Switch Mobility unveils e-double decker AC bus

MUMBAI

Switch Mobility Ltd., a unit of of Ashok Leyland, unveiled an electric double decker air-conditioned bus Switch EiV 22 which will be deployed by BEST (Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking) to ferry passengers in Mumbai.

'Maruti has to keep small car segment energised'

NEW DELHI

A large section of customers still prefer hatchbacks despite sales growth of SUVs and Maruti Suzuki India feels the need to keep the small car segment 'energised' with new products, MD & CEO Hisashi Takeuchi said. Maruti, which unveiled the all-new version of its small car Alto K10 at a price range of ₹3.99- 5.83 lakh (ex-showroom), will continue to focus on all segments. PTI

'Elevated inflation needs apt policy reply'

Imported inflation, pending pass-through of input costs by producers remain risks, write RBI officials

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Monetary authorities will need to take necessary policy actions to tame inflation as it remains above the target range even though it has eased slightly, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials wrote in an article on the 'State of the Economy' in the August edition of the RBI Bulletin.

"Inflation has edged down, but its persistence at elevated levels warrants appropriate policy responses to anchor expectations going forward," the officials wrote.

Observing that global growth prospects had turned gloomier over the month, they said the easing of supply chain pressures and the recent ebbing of commodity prices were providing some breather from record high inflation.

Fair wind: The festival season should boost consumer demand including rural as sowing picks up, say RBI officials. •REUTERS

"In India, supply conditions are improving, with the recent monsoon pick-up, strong momentum in manufacturing and a rebound in services. The onset of festival season should boost consumer demand, including rural, also as sowing activity picks up. Robust central government capital outlays are supporting investment activity," they wrote.

"Amidst somewhat mixed signals being emitted by high frequency indicators, perhaps the best word to describe the state of domestic economic activity relative to the rest of the world is resilience," the officials, including Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra added.

Emphasising that inflation had eased in July by 30 basis points from June and by 60 basis points from the average of 7.3% for Q1:2022-23, they said "this has validated our hypothesis that inflation peaked in April 2022".

"For the rest of the year, the RBI's projections scent a steady easing of the momentum of price changes.

Stating that this was a decisive point in the inflation trajectory, they stressed that "imported inflation pressure points remained the overarching risk, followed by pending pass-through of input costs if producers regained pricing power".

Noting that after Q1: 2023-24, the task before the MPC would be to guide inflation to its target of 4%, they said this would likely prove even more arduous than slowing inflation to a level below 6% and into the tolerance band (of 2-6%).

Capital flows return

On a positive note, the officials highlighted the return of capital flows after a hiatus, when the appetite of portfolio flows to emerging economies had deteriorated as the dollar appreciated in step with the U.S. Federal Reserve's policy tightening.

"India is cautiously returning to be the flavour of this season's portfolio flows, with inflows of $5 billion upto August 12," they wrote.

'Big-bang privatisation of banks can be harmful'

RBI officials flag PSB focus on inclusion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Big-bang privatisation of public sector banks (PSBs) can do more harm than good, authors of an article in the latest RBI bulletin have warned, asking the government to take a nuanced approach on the issue.

While private sector banks (PVBs) are more efficient in profit maximisation, PSBs have done better in promoting financial inclusion, they said in the article.

"Economic thinking has come a long way to acknowledge that a more nuanced approach is required while pursuing [privatisation]," they wrote. A gradual approach to privatisation could ensure that a void was not created in fulfilling the

social objective of financial inclusion and monetary transmission, they added.

Evidence suggested that PSBs were not guided by profit maximisation alone and had integrated the desirable financial inclusion goals in their function, they pointed out. The Reserve Bank said the views expressed in the article were of the authors and did not represent that of the central bank.

RBI eyes robust statistics, ML to monitor economy real time

'Timely information crucial for monetary policy decisions'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would like to deploy robust statistical data and machine learning (ML) techniques to strengthen real-time tracking of economic activity to effectively deal with the impact caused by the pandemic, according to RBI officials.

The RBI had recently come out with weekly-activity indices to track the latest economic developments with the least possible lag.

Two different weekly indices have been developed – a 7-indicator weekly activity index (WAI) using the dynamic factor model reflecting changes in economic activity on a year-on-year basis; and a 15-indicator weekly diffusion index (WDI) reflecting directional movement on a sequential basis.

Highlighting the importance of these systems, the RBI officials wrote, "Outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has called for prompt policy actions to safeguard livelihoods and make timely assessment of the economy to help in speedy recovery".

"With faster innovation and realignment of production processes due to the pandemic, the extant economic indicators fell short of keeping pace with rapid changes in the economy," the officials wrote in an article published in the latest edition of RBI Bulletin.

"This called for supplementing them with additional data, preferably with lower time lag."

For central banks, timely information on economic activity was crucial, particularly for exercising precise judgment in the monetary policy decisions.

'Macro stability outlook is improving'

REUTERS
MUMBAI

India's worst period of macro instability is possibly over, and consumer inflation and trade deficit may moderate albeit gradually, Morgan Stanley said.

"Global commodity prices were largely steady last month, with the exception of oil prices which continued to decline," Upasana Chachra, chief India economist at Morgan Stanley, wrote in a note.

"We believe the worst of macro instability is behind us, though moderation in inflation and narrowing of trade deficit will be gradual." Ms. Chachra reckons consumer inflation will rise to 7%-7.2% in August and remain at 7% in September before moderating.

Minister asks telcos to prepare for 5G roll-out

Govt. issues spectrum-allocation letters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said spectrum allocation letters have been issued to telecom service providers and asked them to start preparing for the rollout of 5G services.

"5G Update: Spectrum assignment letter issued. Requesting TSPs to prepare for 5G launch," he announced on Twitter and Koo.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

The Department of Telecom (DoT) has received a total payment of about ₹17,876 crore from Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Adani Data Networks and Vodafone Idea for the spectrum they won in the recent auction.

The government had garnered a record ₹1.5 lakh crore worth of bids in the recently-concluded auctions.

Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, in a statement, said the firm on Wednesday paid ₹8,312.4 crore towards spectrum, and was given the allocation letter for the designated frequency bands within hours of making the payment to DoT.

Rupee slips as Fed minutes prop dollar

REUTERS
MUMBAI

The Indian rupee slipped on Thursday against a steady greenback that found support from the minutes of the U.S. Federal Reserve's last meeting that hinted higher interest rates could stick for longer.

The rupee ended at 79.64, having flirted with the key 79.70 level occasionally during the session.

Traders widely expect the rupee to tread the 79-80 range for at least another week. "Within that broad range, there is choppiness depending on sentiment. A 25-30 paise broad move one day, gets covered the next day, so within this there's volatility," Gaurang Somaiya, an analyst at Motilal Oswal said.

'Auto sector to gain the most out of 5G roll-out'

Cars see 'insane' telemetry data usage

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

As the Indian market is getting primed for 5G, many industries are expected to see exponential growth in data. However, the one that is going to be inundated with data would be the automotive sector, said experts.

The dramatic increase in speed and low latency, powered by 5G, would offer customers a multitude of benefits across the automotive field, said Jaganathan Chelliah, senior director, Marketing, India & Middle East and Africa, Western Digital. While 5G would enable data to move to and from the vehicle with low latency, data storage devices enable all of the in-car applications – from infotainment to ADAS to autonomous – to work seamlessly, Mr. Chelliah said.

According to NetApp, a hybrid cloud data services and data management firm, the automotive industry stands to get a lot from the 5G roll-out as automobiles today generate an 'insane amount of telemetry data', which are not only used for maintenance but also to improve user experience.

India's connected car market is expected to grow by more than 20% in the next few years, according to a Deloitte study.

'Most firms keen to hire freshers in H2'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

India, being a sunrise location for entry-level jobs globally, is likely to hire a large volume of freshers in this calendar year, said TeamLease EdTech, a learning solutions provider.

Some 59% of employers in the country would be keen to hire freshers between July and December (H2), a 12% increase over the first half (H1) and a 42% increase over H2 of 2021, as per a biannual Career Outlook Report released by the company on Thursday.

IT, e-commerce and telecom would be the most promising sectors for freshers, as per the report.

IRCTC eyes monetising 'digital assets' to help bolster revenue

Firm cites ₹1,000-cr. revenue potential, to hire consultant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has floated a tender to hire a consultant that can help the firm monetise the "reservoir of digital data", including customer data of both passenger services as well as freight services, to unlock estimated revenue potential of ₹1,000 crore.

In the notice inviting applications from consultants, the firm said Indian Railways generated 'enormous amounts' of data, presenting 'large scope' for monetisation. "IRCTC wishes to engage a consulting firm to help in identification, design and development, and roll-out of data monetisation opportunities," it said.

It added that the applying party needed to study "various Acts or laws including IT Act 2000 and its amendments, user data privacy laws including GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and the current 'Personal Data Protection Bill 2018 of India, and accordingly propose business models.

The consultant, IRCTC said, would need to study data of the passenger, freight and parcel businesses, including customer data such as name, age, gender and class of journey; as well as behavioural data such as flow of passengers, frequency of journey, travel time and booking time, among other things.

Rane Holdings shares touch 52-week high

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Rane Group firms' shares surged on Thursday as trading volumes jumped.

Rane Holdings Ltd. (RHL) soared to a 52-week high of ₹838.15 on the BSE before closing with a gain of ₹117.50, or 16.6%, at ₹822.25. There was also a more than 11-fold spurt in trading volumes.

Rane Brake Lining shot up by ₹34.40, or 4.94%, to close at ₹731.15.

Rane Engine Valve shares gained ₹15.50, or 6.42%, to close at ₹256.75, while Rane Madras posted a marginal gain of ₹5.35, or 1.36%, to close at ₹397.95 on the BSE.

SPORT

Bengaluru set to host two FIBA events

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Bengaluru is set to host two international basketball events over the next month. The city will play host to the India-Jordan fixture of the FIBA World Cup 2023 Asian Qualifiers on August 29, followed by the FIBA under-18 women's Asian Championship.

For the under-18 event to be held in September, India is placed alongside powerhouses like China, Japan and Australia in the upper Division 'A'.

BFI president K. Govindraj thanked the Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports for assuring assistance to conducting the event.

There will be 16 teams vying for honours, the top four sides qualifying for the FIBA under-19 women's World Cup scheduled to be held at Madrid in July next year.

The India under-18 men's team will compete in the 2022 FIBA under-18 Asian Championship, which commences at Tehran (Iran) on Sunday.

India is placed with China and South Korea in Group 'B'.

FIBA under-18 women's Asian Championship: Division 'A': China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Australia, New Zealand; **Division 'B':** Hong Kong, Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Phillipines, Samoa, Thailand.

India squad for men's u-18 Asian Championship: Lokendra Singh (Capt.), Harsh Dagar, Udit Ravish, Kushal Singh, Jitendra Kumar Sharma, Jaideep Rathore, Shreyansh Raj Singh, Preetham Reddy, Janmejay Singh, Abhi Joshi, Sanketh Suresh, Lavish; **Head coach:** Veselin Matic.

It's The Sovereign Orb vs. Jake in the Leading Stud Stakes

BENGALURU: The Sovereign Orb and Jake may fight out the finish of the Leading Stud Stakes (1,400m), the feature event of the races to be held on Friday (Aug. 19). False rails will be declared on race day.

1 HAPPY VALLEY PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 25, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Drums Of War (9) S. Saqlain 62.5, 2. Sunshine Prince (5) S. John 62.5, 3. Triple Alliance (3) Hasib A 62.5, 4. Eco Friendly (11) Arvind K 61.5, 5. Handsome Rocky (2) Angad 61.5, 6. Hoofed Wonder (10) R. Manjunath 61, 7. Sekhmet (8) R. Pradeep 61, 8. Frederico (7) M. Naveen 60.5, 9. Marco Polo (4) B. Nayak 50.5, 10. Belli Deepa (1) Nazerul 59, 11. Love (12) Rayan 57 and 12. Russian Romance (6) Hindu S 56.5.

1. SUNSHINE PRINCE, 2. FREDERICO, 3. HANDSOME ROCKY

2 WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY CUP (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Measure Of Time (12) T.S. Jodha 62, 2. Knotty In Blue (3) B. Nayak 57.5, 3. Osiris (7) Arvind K 57, 4. Augusto (4) Hindu S 56.5, 5. Fictioneer (9) Rayan 56.5, 6. Top Dancer (2) S. Saqlain 56.5, 7. Embosom (10) L.A. Rozario 55.5, 8. Noble Ruler (1) G. Vivek 55, 9. Kings Speech (11) Saddam H 54.5, 10. Capri Girl (8) Akshay K 53.5, 11. Elite Agent (5) Angad 51.5 and 12. Thunderstruck (6) Nazerul 51.5.

1. OSIRIS, 2. CAPRI GIRL, 3. MEASURE OF TIME

3 CHAMPION JOCKEY STAKES (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. The Golden Dream (2) Arvind K 60, 2. Lady Supremos (6) Saddam H 59.5, 3. Prime Abbess (5) Sandesh 59, 4. Silver Swift (8) G. Vivek 56.5, 5. Sunway Lagoon (7) B. Harish 56, 6. Inexhaustible (3) Nazerul 55, 7. Sheer Bliss (1) Suraj 54.5 and 8. Way Of Life (4) Tousif 54.5.

1. PRIME ABBESS, 2. SHEER BLISS, 3. SILVER SWIFT

4 CHAMPION TRAINER STAKES (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-30: 1. Cape Wickham (3) Ranjeet S 56, 2. King Pompous (5) Vinod Shinde 56, 3. Salento (10) Akshay K 56, 4. Shamrock (1) Suraj 56, 5. Sir Tyrrell (12) Rayan 56, 6. Sleipnir (8) J.H. Arul 56, 7. Stormy Ocean (4) Sandesh 56, 8. Trevalius (9) Srinath 56, 9. Triumphant (6) Trevor 56, 10. Twilight Tornado (11) M. Prabhakaran 56, 11. Tycoonist (2) Hindu S 56 and 12. Stellar Gold (7) Darshan 54.5.

1. SHAMROCK, 2. STORMY OCEAN, 3. TREVALIUS

5 LEADING STUD STAKES (1,400m), rated 80 & above, 4-00: 1. Trafalgar (6) S. Saqlain 61.5, 2. Bellator (2) Trevor 61, 3. Automatic (5) Srinath 58, 4. Apsara Star (4) Salman K 57, 5. Psychic Warrior (1) J.H. Arul 56, 6. The Sovereign Orb (7) Akshay K 55.5 and 7. Jake (3) Hindu S 54.

1. THE SOVEREIGN ORB, 2. JAKE

6 LEADING OWNER STAKES (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-30: 1. Star Glory (5) Suraj 62, 2. Garamond (9) L.A. Rozario 58.5, 3. General Patton (3) Hasib A 57, 4. Kvasir (6) Vivek 55.5, 5. Mystic Eye (2) Akshay K 55.5, 6. Yukan (1) Trevor 54.5, 7. Elusive Girl (7) J.H. Arul 54, 8. Donna Bella (8) Salman K 53 and 9. Chul Bul Rani (4) P. Surya 50.5.

1. STAR GLORY, 2. MYSTIC EYE, 3. GARAMOND

7 WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY CUP (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Southern Power (5) T.S Jodha 62.5, 2. Memoriter (1) G. Vivek 61, 3. Winmylove (3) S. John 61, 4. Almanach (4) P. Surya 60.5, 5. Striking Memory (12) S. Saqlain 60.5, 6. Dr Logan (10) L.A. Rozario 59, 7. Ozark (6) B. Paswan 58.5, 8. Star Domination (7) Vinod Shinde 58.5, 9. Aherne (2) J.H. Arul 58, 10. Lycurgus (11) Vaibhav 57.5, 11. Aleef (9) Hindu S 55.5 and 12. Beldona (8) Nazerul 53.5.

1. WINMYLOVE, 2. BELDONA, 3. AHERNE

Day's best: **PRINCE ABBESS**
Double: **OSIRIS – SHAMROCK**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Kulsum takes the honours in the Justice P. Medapa Memorial Cup (Div. I)

BENGALURU: Irfan Ghatala-trained Kulsum (Trevor up) won the Justice P. Medapa Memorial Cup (Div. I), the main event of the races on Thursday (Aug. 18). The winner is owned by Mr. Saleem A. Jasdanwalla & Mr. Mohd. Javeed Ghatala.

1. BOLD GESTURE STAKES (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25: **THE OMEGA MAN** (B. Nayak) 1, Fierce Fighter (T.S. Jodha) 2, Sand Castles (Vivek) 3 and Southernaristocrat (J.H. Arul) 4. Not run: Sling Shot. 3, 1 and 1. 1m, 27.64s. ₹28 (w), 12, 24 and 16 (p), SHP: 78, THP: 42, FP: 339, Q: 154, Trinella: 2,344 and 558, Exacta: 3,239 and 833. Favourite: Southernaristocrat. Owner: Mr. H.S. Chandre Gowda. Trainer: V. Dheeraj.

2. BASQUE STAKES (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **BENEDICTION** (G. Vivek) 1, Striking Point (S. Saqlain) 2, Belvedere (Rayan) 3 and Sky Princess (Nazerul) 4. 3.3/4, 2-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 13.34s. ₹66 (w), 19, 13 and 18 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 58, FP: 311, Q: 98, Trinella: 1,854 and 984, Exacta: 6,864 and 2,139. Favourite: Striking Point. Owner: Mr. Srinivasa M. Trainer: Rajendra Singh.

3. JUSTICE P. MEDAPA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II), (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **SPLENDIDO** (Sandesh) 1, Siege Courageous (Trevor) 2, Stormwatch (Hindu S) 3 and Bellissimo (G. Vivek) 4. Not run: Xiomara. 3, 3 and 10. 1m, 25.25s. ₹29 (w), 11, 10 and 11 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 31, FP: 62, Q: 28, Trinella: 85 and 30, Exacta: 212 and 128. Favourite: Siege Courageous. Owners: Mr. M. Rishad, Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP and Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

4. KUNIGAL STUD STAKES (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: **PEYO** (Suraj) 1, Millbrook (Hasib A) 2, Douglas (Trevor) 3 and Peluche (Hindu S) 4. Not run: Ruling Goddess. 2-1/4, 1-1/2 and Lnk. 1m, 25.08s. ₹34 (w), 15 and 41 (p), SHP: 70, THP: 44, FP: 199, Q: 171, Trinella: 343 and 74, Exacta: 1,875 and 3,215. Favourite: Douglas. Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria & Mr. S. Narredu. Trainer: S. Narredu.

5. JUSTICE P. MEDAPA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I), (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **KULSUM** (Trevor) 1, Angel Bliss (Vinod Shinde) 2, Super Veloce (Nazerul) 3 and Serdar (Suraj) 4. Not run: Rubirosa. Shd, 2-1/2 and 8. 1m, 25.09s. ₹26 (w), 10, 20 and 60 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 122, FP: 125, Q: 64, Trinella: 2,717 and 2,426, Exacta: 6,287 and 1,426. Favourite: Domingo. Owners: Mr. Saleem A. Jasdanwalla & Mr. Mohd. Javeed Ghatala. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

6. QUASAR STAKES (1,600m), rated 20 to 45: **TRANQUILO** (S. John) 1, La Reina (Sandesh) 2, Another Rainbow (G. Vivek) 3 and Star Comet (Trevor) 4. 1, Lnk and 1/2. 1m, 38.67s. ₹31 (w), 14, 15 and 31 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 61, FP: 83, Q: 58, Trinella: 486 and 664, Exacta: 807 and 393. Favourite: La Reina. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal, Mr. Gautam Aggarwal and Mr. Arjun Mangalorkar. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

7. BASQUE STAKES (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **MARK ONE** (S. Saqlain) 1, Divine Blessings (S. John) 2, Perfect Rendition (Hasib A) 3 and Flying Quest (M. Prabhakaran) 4. 1-1/4, 1-1/4 and 1. 1m, 12.75s. ₹27 (w), 13, 15 and 15 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 46, FP: 86, Q: 26, Trinella: 298 and 130, Exacta: 396 and 171. Favourite: Mark One. Owners: Mr. Nitin Himmatmal Jain & Mr. Jatin Laxmikant Trivedi. Trainer: Rajendra Singh.

8. BOLD GESTURE STAKES (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25: **SUPER RUFFIAN** (S. John) 1, Turkoman (Salman K) 2, Divine Masculine (Kiran Rai) 3 and Speed Seven (Likith) 4. 2-1/2, 3-3/4 and 5-3/4. 1m, 26.58s. ₹36 (w), 19, 16 and 17 (p), SHP: 54, THP: 61, FP: 118, Q: 73, Trinella: 517 and 199, Exacta: 1,007 and 374. Favourite: Divine Masculine. Owner: Mr. Gamini Jayaratne. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

Jackpot: ₹3,069 (58 tkts.); Runner-up: 480 (159 tkts.); Treble (i): 200 (41 tkts.); (ii): 290 (48 tkts.).

India proves too strong for Zimbabwe in first ODI

The bowlers, led by Chahar, restrict the hosts to 189 before Gill and Dhawan power the team home with plenty to spare

INDIA IN ZIM

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HARARE

Opening batters Shubman Gill and Shikhar Dhawan starred as India cruised to a 10-wicket victory over Zimbabwe on Thursday in the first of three One-Day Internationals.

Gill (82) and vice-captain Dhawan (81) were unbeaten as the tourists knocked off a modest target of 190 with 19.1 overs to spare at the Harare Sports Club.

The home side was all out for 189 in 40.3 overs, thanks largely to a brave 70-run ninth-wicket stand between Richard Ngarava and Brad Evans.

"I am enjoying batting with young Shubman and today I feel like a youngster too," said Dhawan.

"Once I was set, I went after the bowlers. I wanted to rotate the strike as well and then accelerate.

"My rhythm with Gill has settled nicely. The way he bats and times the ball is lovely to watch. He has shown the consistency in converting 50s into bigger 50s.

"Our bowlers did well and it was nice to see Deepak Chahar come back from injury and pick up three wickets."

Zimbabwe captain Regis Chakabva said: "India bowled really well and put pressure on us. I thought we started well but lost our way from the 18-over mark.

"It was good to see Richie and Brad give a good partnership at the back end. They were quite good, but we needed one or two more big partnerships.

"Our bowlers tried to come hard at them but Shikhar and Gill batted really well and took us out of the game."

Zimbabwe used eight bowlers, but none could claim a wicket as the Indian openers struck a six and 19 fours between them.

Rescue stand

Earlier, in trouble at 83-6 after being put in to bat by India, the home side rallied with Ngarava scoring 34 and Evans unbeaten on 33.

Ngarava faced 42 deliveries and smashed a six and three fours before being clean bowled by Prasidh Krishna.

Evans also struck a six and three fours, off 29 balls, as Zimbabwe sought in vain to extend a run of nine victories in 11 matches since Dave Houghton became coach in June.

The other Zimbabwe batter to impress was Chakabva, whose 35 runs included four fours.

Axar Patel, Deepak Chahar and Krishna shared the Indian bowling honours with three wickets each.

Picking up wickets was crucial. There was swing and seam movement as well. But it was good to see them (bowlers) put the ball in the right areas and be disciplined

K.L. RAHUL
India skipper

SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE

Innocent Kaia c Samson b Chahar 4 *(20b)*, Tadiwanashe Marumani c Samson b Chahar 8 *(22b, 1x4)*, Wessly Madhevere lbw b Chahar 5 *(12b)*, Sean Williams c Dhawan b Siraj 1 *(3b)*, Sikandar Raza c Dhawan b Prasidh 12 *(17b, 1x4)*, Regis Chakabva b Axar 35 *(51b, 4x4)*, Ryan Burl c Gill b Prasidh 11 *(18b, 2x4)*, Luke Jongwe lbw b Axar 13 *(23b, 2x4)*, Brad Evans (not out) 33 *(29b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Richard Ngarava b Prasidh 34 *(42b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Victor Nyauchi c Gill b Axar 8 *(6b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-4, lb-12, w-9): 25; Total (in 40.3 overs): 189.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-25 (Kaia, 6.4 overs), 2-26 (Marumani, 8.1), 3-31 (Williams, 9.2), 4-31 (Madhevere, 10.1), 5-66 (Raza, 16.1), 6-83 (Burl, 20.5), 7-107 (Chakabva, 26.3), 8-110 (Jongwe, 28.3), 9-180 (Ngarava, 39.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Chahar 7-0-27-3, Siraj 8-2-36-1, Kuldeep 10-1-36-0, Prasidh 8-0-50-3, Axar 7.3-2-24-3.

INDIA

Shikhar Dhawan (not out) 81 *(113b, 9x4)*, Shubman Gill (not out) 82 *(72b, 10x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-8, w-21): 29; Total (for no loss in 30.5 overs): 192.

ZIMBABWE BOWLING

Ngarava 7-0-40-0, Nyauchi 4-0-17-0, Evans 3.5-0-28-0, Williams 5-0-28-0, Raza 6-0-32-0, Jongwe 2-0-11-0, Madhevere 2-0-16-0, Burl 1-0-12-0.

Toss: India; **MoM:** Deepak Chahar.

India won by 10 wickets with 19.1 overs remaining to take a 1-0 lead in three-match series.

Second ODI: August 20, Harare Sports Club, 12.45 p.m. IST.

Spelling trouble: Chahar returned with a bang, making life difficult for the Zimbabwe batters and finishing with figures of three for 27. • AFP

A welcome order by SC, says IOA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Thursday "welcomed" the interim relief granted to it by the Supreme Court, saying it will continue to challenge the "contentious" clauses of the National Sports Code, primarily related to "tenure guidelines" for officials and "voting rights" of State bodies.

"It is a welcome order by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The IOA and the government jointly approached the Court. We had the full support of the government. We are happy that the Court took into consideration our submission," said IOA secretary-general Rajeev Mehta.

The IOA said it will continue to oppose "contentious" guidelines.

"Our main objection is on tenure guidelines. The Sports Code has already reduced the tenure of a sports administrator from 20 years to 12. After two terms of four years each, an official has to go for a cooling-off period... we can't accept this," he said.

South Africa maintains control despite Stokes' triple strike

Rabada rips through England; visitors lead by 124 runs with three wickets in hand

Scalp hunters: Rabada took a five-for while Nortje ended with three. • GETTY IMAGES

SA IN ENG

REUTERS
LONDON

A fiery spell from captain Ben Stokes dragged England back into the match, but South Africa remained the happier side as it reached 289 for seven at the close on the second day of the first test at Lord's on Thursday.

Stokes removed Sarel Erwee for 73 and the dangerous Rassie van der Dussen (19) just as the game was drifting away from the home side, but South Africa leads by 124 runs after taking the attack to the wilting home bowlers late in the day.

Tall all-rounder Marco Jansen (41 batting) put on 72 for the seventh wicket with Keshav Maharaj (41) to re-establish the visitors' dominant position.

South Africa began well in their reply to the home team's modest score of 165, putting on 85 for the first wicket before skipper Dean Elgar was bowled by James Anderson for 47.

Keegan Petersen (24) and Aiden Markram (16) both lost their wickets before the visitors passed England's total, but Stokes (3/48) soon struck a double blow.

He removed Erwee with a brute of a bouncer the left-hander could only fend off, before trapping van der Dussen lbw.

Broad's feat

Stuart Broad became the second bowler after Anderson (117) to take 100 wickets at Lord's when he had Kyle Verreynne (11) caught by Foakes.

England was bowled out in the morning session, having resumed on 116 for six. Fast bowler Rabada took five for 52 and was the pick of a four-pronged seam attack.

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: Alex Lees c Verreynne b Rabada 5, Zak Crawley c Markram b Rabada 9, Ollie Pope b Rabada 73, Joe Root lbw b Jansen 8, Jonny Bairstow b Nortje 0, Ben Stokes c Petersen b Nortje 20, Ben Foakes b Nortje 6, Stuart Broad c Elgar b Rabada 15, Matthew Potts (not out) 6, Jack Leach b Jansen 15, James Anderson lbw b Rabada 0; Extras (b-1, lb-7): 8; Total (in 45 overs): 165.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-25, 3-42, 4-55, 5-100, 6-116, 7-134, 8-145, 9-164.

South Africa bowling: Rabada 19-3-52-5, Ngidi 5-1-12-0, Jansen 8-1-30-2, Nortje 13-2-63-3.

South Africa — 1st innings: Dean Elgar b Anderson 47, Saral Erwee c Foakes b Stokes 73, Keegan Petersen c Bairstow b Potts 24, Aiden Markram c Foakes b Leach 16, Rassie van der Dussen lbw b Stokes 19, Marco Jansen (batting) 41, Kyle Verreynne c Foakes b Broad 11, Keshav Maharaj c Potts b Stokes 41, Kagiso Rabada (batting) 3; Extras (lb-10, nb-3, w-1): 14; Total (for seven wkts. in 77 overs): 289.

Fall of wickets: 1-85, 2-138, 3-160, 4-187, 5-192, 6-210, 7-282.

England bowling: Anderson 18-3-51-1, Broad 17-2-66-1, Potts 16-1-67-1, Stokes 12-3-53-3, Leach 14-3-42-1.

No Duleep Trophy match in Chennai

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

Puducherry has emerged as the surprise packet in the venues for the Duleep Trophy tournament to be held between September 8 and 25.

This also means there will be no match in Chennai, according to reliable sources who shared the news with *The Hindu* on Thursday.

Since staging the match at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium involved shifting of the pavilion to the press box end and a lot of other smaller changes because of ongoing construction at the venue, it was decided not to hold any match in Chennai.

The BCCI team that did a recce of the venues has flown back.

The tournament will be played on a knockout basis. The quarterfinals and the semifinals will be four-day affairs while the final will be played over five days.

The two quarterfinals, beginning on September 8, are likely to be held at Salem and Puducherry. The winners of these matches would meet the teams that have been given a bye to the semifinals.

The semifinals will be held simultaneously in Coimbatore and Salem. And the final will be hosted by Coimbatore.

The popular tournament returns to the domestic circuit and will be played in the traditional inter-zonal format.

IN BRIEF

Easy win for Pakistan

ROTTERDAM (NETHERLANDS)

Mohammad Rizwan and Agha Salman made unbeaten half-centuries as Pakistan eased to a seven-wicket win over the Netherlands in the second ODI here on Thursday to complete a series victory.

The scores: Netherlands 186 in 44.1 overs (de Leede 89, T. Cooper 66, Haris Rauf 3/16, Mohammad Nawaz 3/42) lost to Pakistan 191/3 in 33.4 overs (Rizwan 69 n.o., Azam 57, Salman 50 n.o.).

US Open to award $60.1 million in prize money

NEW YORK

This year's US Open tennis tournament will award a record $60.1 million in total player compensation, the USTA said on Thursday, with $2.6 million going to each singles champion, twice the total for the runners-up. The prize money total tops the old mark of $57.5 million from last year. AFP

Brooks powers Windies to five-wicket win

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRIDGETOWN

Shamarh Brooks played the sheet anchor role to perfection in guiding the West Indies to a five-wicket victory over top-ranked New Zealand in a low-scoring opening day-night ODI at Kensington Oval here on Wednesday.

After the home side's bowling combination pace and spin dismissed the visitors for 190 in 45.2 overs, Brooks' 91-ball 79, with nine fours and a six, provided the much-needed solidity to take his team to 193 for five in 39 overs.

The result fetched the West Indies 10 vital points in its bid to qualify for next year's World Cup in India.

The scores: New Zealand 190 in 45.2 overs (Finn Allen 25, Kane Williamson 34, Michael Bracewell 31, Mitchell Santner 25; Akeal Hosein 3/28, Alzarri Joseph 3/36) lost to West Indies 193/5 in 39 overs (Shai Hope 26, Shamarh Brooks 79, Nicholas Pooran 28).

Brooks. • AFP

'It was a very successful outing at Birmingham'

Poncha feels there are quite a few youngsters India can expect a lot from in the near future

SQUASH

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Cyrus Poncha has seen the growth of Indian squash from close quarters for over two decades. As secretary of the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI), the 46-year-old appeared a very happy man, sitting at the SRFI Office, Nehru Park, here on Thursday.

India won two medals at the Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham. Saurav Ghosal won a bronze in men's singles, the first time an Indian player has won a medal in singles at CWG, while Saurav and Dipika Pallikal bagged a bronze in mixed doubles.

"Overall, it was a very successful outing at the Birmingham CWG. The two major highlights were Saurav winning a singles medal and 14-year-old Anahat Singh being the find of Indian squash," Poncha said.

Takeaways: Poncha says Saurav winning a singles medal and Anahat's emergence were the highlights of CWG. • R. RAVINDRAN

He said Saurav came into the tournament with a lot of pressure. "After he won a medal, he had tears of happiness. It was a huge relief, a big burden off his shoulders. Beating his good friend and training partner James Willstrop for the bronze-medal playoff match gave him mixed emotions," observed Poncha.

According to Poncha, Saurav has an unfinished business of winning a singles gold in the 2023 Asian Games. "Gold has eluded him at the Asian Games. Being the top-seeded Asian at present, he would certainly be keen to win the gold," he said.

Poncha felt that there were quite a few young players in both men's and women's categories India can expect a lot from. "In men, S. Velavan and Abhay Singh would certainly be the future. And there is Veer Chotrani and Yash Fadte who are doing their graduation in the USA. Before the next CWG, we hope Velavan and Abhay will be in the top 40 of world rankings," said Poncha.

He added that in women, players such as Tanvi Khanna and Akansha Salunkhe will be itching to prove their mettle in the domestic and international circuits. "The two players, along with Anahat and Sunayna Kuruvilla, will be a force to reckon with in the future," he said.

He was effusive in his praise for the HCL whose support for Indian squash has been "massive."

With a proper system in place, India, Poncha said, will surely bag a record haul of five-six medals in the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games.

Mumbai City rallies to sail past a plucky Indian Navy

NEROCA gets the better of TRAU in the 'Imphal derby'

DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Mumbai City FC recovered from a goal deficit to outgun a spirited Indian Navy 4-1 in its opening match in Group-B league of the Durand Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Thursday.

Playing its first match of the season, Mumbai City was well organised and made repeated inroads into the Navy box. But a goal remained elusive as the opposition's defence managed to keep the ball out of harm's way.

The sailors turned things their way in the 43rd minute off a nice counter-attack as Adersh Mattummal punched a powerful drive from around 20 yards, giving the Mumbai goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa no time to save.

Stung by the reverse, the Islanders regrouped quickly. Vikram Pratap Singh brought the equaliser off a fine solo effort just before the break.

Mumbai found the lead in the 65th minute when Scotsman Greg Stewart scored from the spot following a foul on his Spanish colleague Alberto Noguera.

Mumbai coach Des Buckingham introduced Chhangte in the 81st minute and the nippy winger showed his talent by adding two quick goals.

NEROCA FC earned the bragging rights in the 'Imphal derby' as it comfortably downed TRAU FC 3-1 in a Group-C match at the Khuman Lampak Stadium.

Tangva Ragui put NEROCA ahead in the 16th minute but TRAU equalised quickly through Komron Tursunov. Thomyo helped NEROCA regain the lead before John Chidi sealed the issue.

The results: Group-B: Mumbai City FC 4 (Vikram Pratap Singh 45+3, Greg Stewart 65-pen, Lallianzuala Chhangte 89, 90+1) bt Indian Navy 1 (Adersh Mattummal 43); **Group-C:** NEROCA FC 3 (Tangva Ragui 16, Thomyo 36, John Chidi 50) bt TRAU FC 1 (Tursunov 19).

Make that two! Chhangte celebrates his second strike with Gurkirat. • DEBASISH BHADURI

Praggnanandhaa keeps winning

Stays ahead along with Carlsen who scored over Aronian

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Continuing his eye-catching run, R. Praggnanandhaa defeated Hans Niemann (USA) 2.5-1.5 to stay in the joint lead, at nine points with Magnus Carlsen after the third round of the $210,000 FTX Crypto Cup rapid chess tournament in Miami on Thursday. Bouncing back from losing the first game, Praggnanandhaa won the second and fourth games to close the contest.

Carlsen won the first game and drew the rest against Levon Aronian. For the third day, Carlsen and Praggnanandhaa added $7500 for emerging winners. In the other two matches, Le Quang Liem (Vietnam) raced away to a 2.5-0.5 victory over Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Poland) before Alireza Firouzja (France) ended a sequence of six draws to claim the Armageddon game against Anish Giri.

Praggnanandhaa was never comfortable in the first game. Down two pawns, he hastened the end with his king-move on the 45th turn. Though the game lasted 64 moves, Niemann's victory was never in doubt. In the second game, Praggnanandhaa returned the favour with a dominating show that ended in 56 moves.

The even-battle continued in the third where Praggnanandhaa overlooked a chance to gain a decisive edge following the 28th move. Thereafter, Niemann forced a draw by perpetual checks in 34 moves.

The exciting fourth game, too, headed for a draw until Neimann erred by not going for an exchange of rooks on the 57th move. Instead, his decision to move his rook away swung the match decisively in favour of Praggnanandhaa. The Indian took just seven seconds to find the winning continuation, grabbed Niemann's bishop for a pawn to close the match with his 64th move.

LIVE TELECAST

KSCA Maharaja T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Fan-Code, 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
GP Badminton League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
Durand Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 3 p.m. & 6 p.m.
England vs S. Africa: 1st Test, day 3, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.
Ultimate Kho-kho: Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 7.30 p.m.& 8.45 p.m.
La Liga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 11.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)
WI vs NZ: 2nd ODI, FanCode, 11.30 p.m.

Gaikwad wins silver

SOFIA

Mahendra Gaikwad bagged silver, losing to Amirreza Valadi (Iran) 13-2 in the 125kg final, at the World under-20 wrestling championships here. Mohit Kumar (61kg) and Sagar Jaglan (74kg) claimed bronze medals. In the women's section, Priya Malik (76kg) set up a title clash with Ayano Moro (Japan). Priyanshi Prajapat (50kg), Manju (55kg), Bhagyashree Fand (59kg) and Arju (68kg) remained in the bronze medal race.

Padikkal aces the chase for Mystics

Deshpande registers fourth successive half-century as Warriors pip Tigers

MAHARAJA TROPHY

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Devdutt Padikkal's fine half-century (78 n.o., 61b, 7x4, 4x6) helped Gulbarga Mystics beat table-topper Bengaluru Blasters by six wickets in the Maharaja Trophy T20 tournament at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday.

Opting to bowl, Mystics dismissed the Blasters for 144, as Vidhwath Kaverappa and Manoj Bhandage scalped three wickets each. Skipper Mayank Agarwal's 28 was the highest individual score for Blasters.

Calling the shots: Padikkal's stroke-filled innings highlighted Mystics' comfortable win over Blasters. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Middle-order collapse

The Bengaluru side was in fact comfortably placed at 60 for two after eight overs. But a middle-order collapse meant Mystics had to chase just 145, which it did with 15 balls to spare.

In the day's other match, Pavan Deshpande scored his fourth successive half-century (57, 51b, 8x4) as Mysore Warriors defeated Hubli Tigers by two runs to go level on points with Blasters (10 points).

Tigers, after opting to bowl, reduced Mysore to 5 for three, but Deshpande rebuilt the innings in the company of Shubhang Hegde (22) and S. Shivraj (26) as Warriors posted 145.

Three-wicket burst

Vidyadhar Patil's three-wicket burst upfront ensured that the Tigers was left playing catch-up through the 146-run chase.

But a 38-run partnership between A. Mithun (27) and Sharan Gowda (31) for the eighth wicket brought Hubli close, with the side needing 24 off the last over.

The scores:

Bengaluru Blasters 144/9 in 20 overs (Mayank Agarwal 28, Vidhwath Kaverappa 3/31, Manoj Bhandage 3/23) lost to Gulbarga Mystics 150/4 in 17.3 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 78 n.o.). **MoM:** Padikkal.

Mysore Warriors 145/8 in 20 overs (Pavan Deshpande 57, S. Shivraj 26, V. Koushik 3/19) bt Hubli Tigers 143 for nine in 20 overs (Sharan Gowda 31, A. Mithun 27, Vidyadhar Patil 4/29). **MoM:** Vidyadhar.

Exciting win for Sania and Hradecka

SPORTS BUREAU

Sania Mirza and Lucie Hradecka scored a thrilling 1-6, 6-3, [11-9] win over Caroline Garcia and Petra Martic in the doubles first round of the $2,527,250 WTA tennis tournament in Cincinnati.

Other results:

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Second round: Kris Van Wyk (RSA) bt Niki Poonacha 6-4, 7-6(6).
Women: Second round: Jennifer Luikham bt Dong Na (Chn) 7-5, 6-2.
$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta, Indonesia: Second round: Sasikumar Mukund bt Takuya Kumasaka (Jpn) 6-4, 6-3; Fitriadi M Rifqi (Ina) bt Manish Sureshkumar 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (5); S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Kazuki Nishiwaki (Jpn) 6-3, 6-4. **Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Uisung Park & Ji Hoon Son (Kor) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev & Rishi Reddy 3-6, 7-6(3), [10-6]; Parikshit Somani & Manish Sureshkumar bt Arynkgo Mesakh & Aditya Hari Sasongko (Ina) 6-0, 6-1.
$15,000 ITF men, Cancun, Mexico: First round: Aditya Vishal Ballsekar bt Gabriel Evans (US) 0-6, 7-5, 3-2 (retired).
$15,000 ITF men, Memphis, USA: First round: Thai-Son Kwiatkowski (USA) bt Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-1, 7-6(2).
$15,000 ITF Cairo, Egypt: Men: First round: Luca Tomasetto (Ita) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 4-6, 6-0, 1-0 (retired); **Women: Second round:** Mayuka Aikawa (Jpn) bt Sanjana Sirimalla 6-0 (retired). **Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Giorgia Pinto & Gaia Squarcialup (Ita) bt Ekaterina Kuznetsova & Kundali Majgaine 6-1, 7-5.
$15,000 ITF men, Anseong, Korea: Second round: Adil Kalyanpur bt Timothy Gray (Aus) 7-6(5), 6-3.
$25,000 ITF women, Aldershot, Britain: Second round: Ankita Raina bt Talia Neilson Gatenby (GBr) 6-3, 6-2.
$15,000 ITF women, Ourense, Spain: Second round: Yvonne Cavalle-Reimers (Esp) bt Rutuja Bhosale 5-7, 7-5, 6-2.

Arjun outwits Sengupta

SPORTS BUREAU

Fourth seed Arjun Erigaisi led the charge of a 73-member strong Indian contingent in the 148-player field in the Abu Dhabi Masters chess, but top seed Wang Hao, Alexandr Predke, Amin Baseem and Nihal Sarin found the going tough in the second round in Abu Dhabi on Thursday.

Arjun. • VELANKANNI RAJ B.

Top results (Indians unless stated): Second round: Wang Hao (Chn, 1) drew with Mahammad Muradli (Aze, 2); Alexandr Predke (FIDE, 1) lost to Tigran Hartyunyan (Arm, 2); Deep Sengupta (1) lost to Arjun Erigaisi (2); Amin Baseem (Egy, 1.5) drew with Arjun Kalyan (1.5); Jorden van Foreest (Ned) bt Sahaj Grover (1); N.R. Vignesh (1) lost to Salem Saleh (UAE, 2); David Anton (Esp, 2) bt P. Shyaamnikhil (1); V. Praneeth (1.5) drew with Amin Tabatabaei (Iri, 1.5); Aditya Samat (1.5) drew with Nihal Sarin (1.5); Kushagra Mohan (1.5) drew with Abhijeet Gupta (1.5).

Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 2) bt Vishnu Prasanna (1); Mukhiddin Madaminov (Uzb, 1) lost to Aryan Chopra (2); S.P. Sethuraman (2) bt Nitish Belurkar (1); Raunak Sadhwani (2) bt M. Pranesh (1); R.R. Laxman (1) lost to Murali Karthikeyan (2).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Yash and Deep excel in Neptune's success

Yash Jadhav (110) and K. Deep Surana (5/29) starred for Neptune CC as it beat Cambridge CC by a comfortable 113-run margin in the KSCA (Group I) under-19 inter-club tournament.

The scores: Vijaya CC 191 in 48 overs (Prakar Chaturvedi 30, Arjun Nair 31, Mit Daxesh Patwa 34, D. Vishwanath 3/48) bt Vikram CC 155 in 40 overs (R. Krithik Reddy 58, D.G. Nithin 29, Mann Daxesh Patwa 4/14) [Target revised to 160 in 40 overs because of rain].
Wilson Garden CC 233/6 in 50 overs (Raghuveer Rajpurohit 38, Aaryan Santosh 77, S. Siddharth 34) bt Social Cricketers 213 in 46 overs (Krishiv Bajaj 93, S. Manjunath 40, Divyam Khater 3/34) [Target revised to 219 in 47 overs because of rain].
Jawans CC 265/5 in 50 overs (Srujan Nandan 103, Shashank Krishnamurthy 49, Aryan Inchal 37 n.o.) bt Visweswarapuram CC (1) 229 in 47.5 overs (Shubham Biswal 67, Aadvik Sharmod 37, Manuveer Mahajan 35, Karan 4/36).
Neptune CC 277 in 48.4 overs (Yash Jadhav 110, Sohan Reddy 26, B.C. Shreyas 35, Yash Havalannache 44, Aamir Hamza 4/39) bt Cambridge CC 164 in 48.4 overs (A.S. Hariharan 54, Rishabh Agarwal 32 n.o., K. Deep Surana 5/29).
BUCC (1) 163 in 34 overs (Pradnyan Parag Dani 38, Rohan Desai 38, Mohammad Ibrahim Rayyan 4/29) bt Modern CC 126 in 34.2 overs (R. Shiv 35, K. Prajin Shunmuga 4/16, Rohan Desai 3/41).
Jupiter CA 88 in 22.1 overs (Huzaifa M.Bagi 5/24) lost to Visweswarapuram CC (2) 89/3 in 20.5 overs (Abhinav Kapsi 28, M. Pranav 25).
Lions CC 100 in 38.2 overs (Gaurav Gowda 27, N. Samarth 4/31) lost to Vultures CC 102 for no loss in 12.1 overs (Sireesh Balgaar 51 n.o., Aarav Shriyan 46 n.o.).
Coles CC 287/5 in 50 overs (Adwait Jain 50, Rishav Appachu Manavtira 38, H. Sarvesh Raju 68, Srey Rithwik Kabolu 39, Aditya Gupta 45, Vedant Kini 26 n.o.) lost to Bangalore SC 211/4 in 33 overs (S. Vinay Radha 58, S. Toufeeq 106 n.o.) [Target revised to 207 in 36 overs because of rain].

Malnad Falcons begins Super League with facile win over Mandya Bulls

Malnad Falcons beat Mandya Bulls 6-1 in their opening match of the Super League stage of the Grand Prix Badminton League being played at the KBA courts here on Thursday. Falcons collected six points from the match while Mandya Bulls managed just one.

Wolves make it

Late on Wednesday, KGF Wolves lost to Bengaluru Lions 3-4 but still qualified for the Super League.

With the qualification hinging on the Super Match, Wolves secured three points to add to their earlier tally of 10 to finish second behind Falcons (15 points) in their group.

The results:

Malnad Falcons bt Mandya Bulls 6-1 [Dhrithi Yatheesh lost to Ananya Praveen 15-12, 12-15, 10-15; Pruthvi Roy & Venkatesh Prasad lost to Ashith Surya & M. Madhusudhan 5-15, 15-8, 12-15; Mithun Manjunath (Trump) bt Anirudh Deshpande 15-7, 15-7; Shamanth Kidiyoor & Dhrithi bt Sai Pratheek & Ananya (Trump) 13-15, 15-11, 15-14; Pruthvi & Mithun & Shamanth bt Ashith Surya & Sai Pratheek & Madhusudhan 21-18].

On Wednesday: Bengaluru Lions bt KGF Wolves 4-3 [Janani Ananthakumar bt Gloria Vinayakumar (Trump) 15-14, 15-9; S. Sanjeeth & S. Vaibhav lost to Hemantha Gowda & Prakash Raj 7-15, 11-15; S. Bhargav (Trump) bt Naren Iyer 15-9, 15-9; H. Nithin & Janani bt V. Suhas & Gloria 15-8, 15-14; S. Vaibhav & H. Nithin & S. Sanjeeth lost to Hemantha Gowda & Prakash Raj & V. Suhas 15-21].

NORTH WESTERN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION CIVIL ENGINEERING DIVISION BELAGAVI.

NWKRTC/EE/BGM/DB/387 & 388/2022-23 Date: 18/08/2022.

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. -14 & 15/2022-23
(Through GOK e-procurement platform https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

Item rate tenders in Two Cover System are invited through GOK e-procurement platform as per KTPP/ Standard Tender Documents for the following works from appropriate class of Registered Contractors in KPWD/CPWD/MES as per the schedule given below.
Sl.No:1:Tender Notification No:14:Name of Work:Improvements to Bus station at Kudachi. (Parking area concrete) (Tq: Raibag),Type of Tender:Two Cover,Amount Put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs):107=20,Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs): 2,00,000=00, Class of Contractor:Class-1,Last date for submission of Tender:07/09/2022, Sl.No:2:Tender Notification No:15:Name of Work:Construction of New Bus station at Harugeri. (Tq: Raibag),Type of Tender:Two Cover,Amount Put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs):124=00,Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.):2,00,000=00,Class of Contractor:Class-1,Last date for submission of Tender: 07/09/2022.

For further details visit https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in for any "HELP" regarding uploading of Tender Documents, please call on help desk -+91-8046010000, +91-8022631200, +91-8068948777 of all working hours. Bidders can contact this office for further details in all working hours or Call 0831-2451475. Any changes in Tender Notification, Corrigendum/Addendum will be published in e-Procurement portal only, separate paper notification will not be issued.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, NWKRTC CE Division BELAGAVI.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.:SEE/Tr(W&M)C/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/2564 Date: 18.08.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites bids for tender for the following work:

1. Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/KLB/Tr(W&M)/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/ North - UNS (SBD-1) at location No: 95A to 94A/Call-3 Dtd: 17.08.2022. Heightening & strengthening to Increase the vertical and horizontal clearance of 110KV North - UNS (SBD-1) Ckt line Transmission line Loc. No 95A to 94A (Longitude:76.880203 Latitude :17.320257 passing over Govt Primary School Tq & Dist Kalaburagi in TLI Section Kalaburagi of TLM Sub Division Humnabad.

2. KPTCL/SEE/TR(W&M)C/KLB/2022-23/PTR repair at Manna e Kheli/Call-2 Dtd: 12.08.2022 Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 20MVA, 110/33-11kV NGEF Make Power Transformer bearing (Sl.No. 2800061135) failed at 110kV Sub-Station, KPTCL, Manna-e-Kheli in Bidar District on total turnkey basis.

3. Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TRC/KLB/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/Disc Insulators/Call-2 Dtd: 12.08.2022. Design, Manufacture, Testing & Supply of 120KN and 90KN Disc Insulators required at Trans(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Kalaburagi for replacement of failed/broken insulators.

The bids will be received through e-procurement mode only.The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **19.08.2022** on/after **12.30 pm.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.)
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, 8th Cross, 12th A Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru-560038

No.: EE/CVR/E-Proc/17/2022-23 Date: 18.08.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations. **(Standard Tender Document KW-1)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.) according to Govt. Order
1	Drilling of borewell and providing pipeline in **Ward No. 50**, Benniganahalli. **Indent No. 51376 (Call-4)**	18.78	46,970.00

Calender of Events: (1) Tender document can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. (2)** Last date for uploading the filled proposals is **25.08.2022** upto **4:00 p.m. (3)** Date of opening of Financial proposals is **26.08.2022** after **4:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, C.V. Raman Nagara Division, BBMP

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department)
Office of The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.
No.: EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/JE/JJM/E-proc/2022-23/1012
Date: 17.08.2022

Tender Notice (Through e-procurement)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Tenders are invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 for implementation of below mentioned works under Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme coming under the limits of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.

Indent No.: 1) 43063 2) 43081 3) 43088 4) 43098 5) 43105 6) 43107 7) 43110 8) 43121 9) 43176

Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and eligible contractors/ bidders can submit their bids and necessary documents only in the website

Some conditions of the Tender: 1. Last date for receiving Tenders from contractors 30.08.2022, 5.30 PM. **2.** Date of opening financial bid of Single Cover 01.09.2022 at 11.30 AM. **3.** Date of opening technical bid of Two Cover 01.09.2022 at 11.30 AM. **4.** Date of opening financial bid of Two Cover 03.09.2022 at 11.30 AM. **5.** Time period fixed for completion of the work Single Cover 3 Months (90 Days)Two Cover 6 Months (180 Days)

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/No.7408/mca/22-23/779

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ
ಸಂ: ಎ2/ಟಿಟಿಜಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ವಿಪ-76/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.08.2022

ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ರಚನೆಗೆ ಮುಂಗಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ನರ್ಸರಿ ಸಸಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.09.2022** ರಂದು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 98.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರುದಾರರು **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08387-295236 ಮೂಲಕ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ

DIPR/ADK/MCA/323/22-23 Dt.17.08.22

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No:SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/F-82(4)/22-23/4985-86 Date: 18.08.2022

Tender Notification (e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids against **Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/21-22/EPR-19/CALL-4 Dt: 27.12.2021** for the work of "Providing intermediate towers to 66kV EHT lines passing over Govt. Schools and colleges at 4 locations pertaining to TLM sub-division, KPTCL, Rajajinagar in TL&SS Division, SRS Peenya" coming under jurisdiction of BMAZ North Circle, Bengaluru.

The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging **on or after 19.08.2022** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned .

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,Tr(M), BMAZ, North Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09, Phone: 080-22386686/85.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CHANNAPATNA
Ramanagara District - 562 160.
Ph.: 080-27251235. E-mail: itstaff_ulb_channapatna@yahoo.co.in
Website: www.channapatnacity.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ನಸಚ/ಕಾವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/01/2022-23 Date : 12-08-2022

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The City Municipal Council of Channapatna invites tenders from PWD registered & eligible Contractors enrolled in F-Procurement Cell in **Two Cover System** in accordance with **KW-3 & KW-4** standard bid document conditions through e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For the **total 10 Package works** and **Last Date for Tender Submission is on 28-08-2022 before 5.00 p.m. Technical Bid will be Opened on 01-09-2022 at 11.00 a.m. WORK_INDENT Numbers are 1) 131967, 2) 131968, 3) 131969 4) 131970, 5) 131971, 6) 131972, 7) 131973, 8) 131974, 9) 131975 and 10) 131976. The Estimated Cost of each Package is from 85.00 Lakhs to 110.00 Lakhs and EMD amount for each individual package is from Rs. 1.70 Lakh to 2.00 Lakhs respectively.**

For further details may contact technical section during office hours at **Channapatna CMC. Office** The detailed tender notification can be view from the **Channapatna CMC Office website : www.channapatnacity.mrc.gov.in.**

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, CMC, Channapatna.

DIPR/Ramanagar/177/Manipal/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Clients are desirous of entering into an Agreement for Development of all that converted lands being **(a) Portion of Survey No. 6/1A measuring about 2 Acres 32.25 Guntas** and **(b) Portion of Survey No. 6/1B measuring about 7.5 Guntas**, both situated at **Whitefield Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk**, morefully described in the Schedule hereunder (**"Schedule Property"**) with the Present Owners **Maniar Mohammed Ghiase** and **Amjad Maniar** both sons of late **Maniar Mohammed Ghiase**, both residing at **Elite Square, 65 & 66, 3rd Floor, Bangalore - 560066 ("Owners")**.

Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the Owners or objecting to such transaction with our clients, should write to the undersigned within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period our clients shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residentially converted lands, situated at **Whitefield Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk**, measuring in all about **2 Acres 39.75 Guntas**, presently within the limits of **Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore District** detailed in the table herein below :

Item No.	Sy. No.	Extent A	Extent G	East	West	North	South
1	6/1A	2	32.25	Sy No. 7	Remaining portion of Sy No. 6/1A belonging to Maniar Mohammed Ghiase & Ors, Sy No. 6/1B i.e Item No. 2 & remaining portion of Survey No. 6/1B.	Remaining portion of Sy No. 6/1A	Sy No. 6/2
2	6/1B	0	7.5	Sy No. 6/1A i.e Item No.1	Road	Remaining portion of Sy No. 6/1B	Remaining portion of Sy No. 6/1B belonging to Maniar Mohammed Ghiase & Ors.

Approved by
1) Maniar Mohammed Ghiase
2) Amjad Maniar
Place: Bangalore
Date: 19-08-2022

(Sunitha. R), Advocate
IndusLaw,
No. 34, 7th Cross, Vasanthnagar,
Cunningham Road, Bangalore - 560 001
Phone : 91-80-4242 3000.

Government Of Karnataka
(Women And Child Development Department)
Child Development Project Office Kushtagi
Krishnagiri Colony Kushtagi 583277
E-mail:cdpokushtagi@gmail.com

No:CDPO/KST/Egg/Tender/Mod/Or/2022-23
Date:10.08.2022

Addendum Order

Subject:- To the Beneficiaries of 392 Anganawadi Centers of this Project for the year 2022-23 Regarding Implementation of Addendum order E-Tender Announcement For Purchase of Eggs.
Reference:-1) This Office E-Tender Announcement Date:19.07.2022. 2) Head Office Letter No:WCD/ICDS/EGG/1/2021/E-597342 Date:04.08.2022

E-Tender is Invited for Purchase through tender for distribution of Eggs to the Beneficiaries of Anganawadi Centers Under kushtagi Child Development Project as per Reference (1). In Relation to the tender called Accordingly, in the letter of the head office Reference No (2), it has been suggested to Modify the Section-V Qualification Criteria in the Documentation of Egg Tender in Sl.No 3. ThereforeTender Should be a NECC Registered Polutry Farmer Without Third Party Involment Whether"**Tender Should be a NECC or Karnataka Co-Operative Polutry Fedaration, Registered Polutry Farmer Without Third Party Involment"** has been Modified and ordered in the Tender Document, and Public is Requested to Read Accordingly.

Sd/- Child Development Project Officer, Kushtagi, Dist: Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/289/MCA/2022-23